

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OFFERS SPECIAL SUNDAY FILM PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Three "Tarzan" films, all with Johnny Weissmuller, the renowned "Tarzan," and his mate Maureen O'Sullivan, will be shown on a single Sunday afternoon, August 4, when The Museum of Modern Art inaugurates a Special Sunday Film Series for Children, as part of its MGM festival, celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of this major American film company.

The Children's Series of MGM films will continue every Sunday through January 5, 1975. It consists of carefully chosen adventure films, fantasies, musicals, comedies and dramas, a treasure trove from MGM's rich library, particularly suitable for family fare. Organized by Madeline Matz, Larry Kardish and Adrienne Mancina of the Department of Film, the program will take place in the Museum auditorium.

Starting at 12:30 this Sunday (August 4), the Museum will present "Tarzan Escapes," directed by Richard Thorpe in 1936; at 3:00, "Tarzan, the Ape Man," the very first of the series, directed by W. S. Van Dyke in 1932, will be shown; it will be followed at 5:30 by "Tarzan and His Mate," Cedric Gibbons' 1934 contribution to this popular cycle.

The following Sunday, August 11, another favorite film series will be featured -- the Hardy family, introduced in the late 30s when Mickey Rooney practically became an American teen-age folk hero. Three of the Hardy pictures will be shown: the first in the series called "A Family Affair," made by George Seitz in 1937, with Lionel Barrymore, will be screened at 12:30, followed at 3:00 by "You're Only Young Once," filmed one year later by the same director, with Lewis Stone, Ann Rutherford, and Eleanor Lynn in the cast. At 5:30 the Museum will show the subsequent film in the series, produced before the end of

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1938, with the self-explanatory title "Love Finds Andy Hardy." The Hardy family built a following throughout the country, and in 1942 the series received an Academy Award for furthering the American way of life.

The third Sunday in August, the 18th, will be fantasy day for young people, starting at 12:30, when George Pal's animated "Tom Thumb" (1958) is shown. It features Peter Sellers, Russ Tamblyn, Terry-Thomas, and the Puppertoons. Following at 3:00 is "Forbidden Planet," the 1956 science fiction film singled out for imaginative design. It was directed by Fred M. Wilcox and introduced a new star, the robot Robby who later became a regular MGM "player." Another more sophisticated science fiction film of George Pal, "The Time Machine," made in 1960, is a tale of the past and the future, for which Pal won an Academy Award. It is the final show of that Sunday at 5:30 PM.

The last week of August features one of the best Hollywood musicals, "Meet Me In St. Louis," made in Technicolor in 1944 by Vincente Minnelli with Judy Garland, Margaret O'Brien, Leon Ames, and Mary Astor; it will have two performances, at 12:30 and 3:00. The critics were boundless in their appreciation of this picture capturing the flavor of 1903/1904. "It is a period, and a way of living captured forever....an enduring and endearing American classic," wrote Lawrence B. Thomas in "The MGM Years."

Other outstanding films in the Sunday afternoon series include "Babes in Arms" (1939), with a Rodgers and Hart score; the Marx Brothers in "A Night at the Opera" (1935); "Lassie Come Home" (1943), starring Hollywood's adored canine actor, and introducing Elizabeth Taylor, later recognized in "National Velvet" (1945), which is also on the program. There are, too, rare and vintage Laurel and Hardy films, including "Bonnie Scotland" (1935).

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"Treasure Island," filmed in 1934 by Victor Fleming, from the Robert L. Stevenson classic, stars Wallace Beery and Jackie Cooper, both of whom can be seen in an earlier film, "The Champ" (1931), which was highly touted in its day. The series has among other "goodies" not designed for children alone "Singin' In the Rain" (1952); "Seven Bridges for Seven Brothers" (1954) and "Lili" (1953) starring Leslie Caron, based on Paul Gallico's story. Lastly, and not to be forgotten are the eight Tom and Jerry cartoons reserved for this special Sunday program.

A schedule is available on request.

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Additional information available from Lillian Gerard, Special Projects Co-ordinator, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019
Phone: (212) 956-7296; 7501.
