

The Museum of Modern Art

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

No. 31

Advance

BICENTENNIAL SALUTE TO AMERICAN FILM COMEDY May 13, 1976 to January 4, 1977

In celebration of the nation's 200th anniversary, The Museum of Modern Art has organized a Bicentennial tribute to American Film Comedy. The Museum's comprehensive eight-month program of roughly 400 pictures includes every important comic figure on the screen in this century.

Mack Sennett, Chaplin, Harold Lloyd, Buster Keaton, Fatty Arbuckle, Ben Turpin, and Harry Langdon will all be represented in the Museum's survey, which will range from the earliest silent films of Thomas A. Edison to the contemporary comedies of Woody Allen. The cycle has a two-fold objective; it is both a celebration of uniquely American styles of humor and a re-acquaintance with genres of comedy that reflect the changes in American life since movies began.

Of particular interest is the fact that although Harold Lloyd's pictures have been withheld from circulation for the past decades, they will be reissued on this occasion. The famous fifty-year-old Lloyd comedy "For Heaven's Sake" (1926) will open the Museum's cycle.

The versatility and variety of America's comic talent includes a great many gifted women: Mabel Normand, Constance Talmadge, Marion Davies, Gloria Swanson, Louise Fazenda, Colleen Moore, Clara Bow, Marie Dressler, Polly Moran, Claudette Colbert, Carole Lombard, Katharine Hepburn -- and of course Mae West.

Among the male comics in this cycle are: Victor Moore, Will Rogers, the Marx Brothers, W.C. Fields, Edward Everett Horton, Chester Conklin, Syd Chaplin, Jimmy Savo, Eddie Cantor, Danny Kaye, Jimmy Durante, Bert Lahr, Fred Allen, Jack Benny, Laurel and Hardy, and even Bugs Bunny.

The directors represented include Preston Sturges, Max Linder (who made two pictures in America), Ernst Lubitsch, Dorothy Arzner, Frank Capra, Cecil B. DeMille, Leo McCarey, Mervyn Le Roy, Billy Wilder, Mitchell Leisen, George Cukor, Monta Bell, and Mal St. Clair.

Just as distinguished for their comic styles are the writers: George S. Kaufman, S.J. Perelman, Garson Kanin, Robert Benchley, Dorothy Parker, Ring Lardner, Anita Loos, Joseph Mankiewicz, Ben Hecht, Charles MacArthur, I.A.L. Diamond, et al.

The Department of Film invited Leonard Maltin, author of several books on film comedy, to be Guest Programmer. The series he has organized has been designed to achieve a balance between familiar films and seldom seen ones. It will serve to remind us of the originality and universality of American film comedy talent. It will also provide the joy of laughter.

PRESS SCREENING SCHEDULE ATTACHED. FURTHER INFORMATION TO BE FORWARDED.

(more)

THE
DRESSES

THE
ACTORS

THE
DIRECTORS

THE
WRITERS

A BICENTENNIAL SALUTE TO AMERICAN FILM COMEDY
May 13, 1976 - January 4, 1977

PRESS SCREENING SCHEDULE

(all screenings will be held in the 4th floor screening room
entrance through 21 West 53 Street)

THURSDAY APRIL 29

10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

TILLIE'S PUNCTURED ROMANCE. 1914. Mack Sennett. With Marie Dressler, Charlie Chaplin, Mabel Normand. (ca. 75 min.)

AMARILLY OF CLOTHESLINE ALLEY. 1918. Marshall Neilan. With Mary Pickford, Norman Kerry. (ca. 75 min.)

1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PECK'S BAD BOY. 1921. Sam Wood. With Jackie Coogan. (ca. 75 min.)

Douglas Fairbanks Films: THE MYSTERY OF THE LEAPING FISH. 1916. John Emerson. With Alma Rubens and Bessie Love. (ca. 25 min.)

A MODERN MUSKETEER. 1918. Allan Dwan. With Marjorie Daw, ZaSu Pitts. (ca. 35 min.)

WILD AND WOOLEY. 1917. John Emerson. (ca. 65 min.)

THURSDAY MAY 6 - HAROLD LLOYD FILMS.

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

SAFETY LAST. 1923. Fred Newmeyer and Sam Taylor. With Harold Lloyd, Mildred Davis. (ca. 90 min.)

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

THE FRESHMAN. 1925. Sam Taylor and Fred Newmeyer. With Harold Lloyd, Jobyna Ralston. (ca. 90 min.)

MOVIE CRAZY. 1932. Clyde Bruckman. With Harold Lloyd, Constance Cummings. (80 min.)

MONDAY MAY 10

10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - WILL ROGERS PROGRAM.

JUBILO. 1919. Clarence Badger. With Josie Sedgwick. (ca. 75 min.)

DOUBLING FOR ROMEO. 1922. With Sylvia Breamer, Raymond Hatton. (ca. 75 min.)

1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - TWO MACK SENNETT FEATURES.

DOWN ON THE FARM. 1920. Erle Kenton and Ray Gray. With Louise Fazenda, James Finlayson, Bert Roach. (ca. 60 min.)

THE SHRIEK OF ARABY. 1923. F. Richard Jones. With Ben Turpin, Kathryn McGuire. (This rare film, discovered in the Russian State Film Archive, has Russian intertitles. Reading the titles is not necessary for enjoyment of the picture, however. (ca. 60 min.)

(more)

A program of shorts with "Fatty" Arbuckle, Buster Keaton, including his first film THE BUTCHER BOY, and Charlie Chaplin.

TUESDAY MAY 11

10:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

HANDS UP! 1926. Clarence Badger. With Raymond Griffith, Marion Nixon, Mack Swain. (ca. 75 min.)

KID BOOTS. 1926. Frank Tuttle. With Eddie Cantor, Clara Bow, Billie Dove, Lawrence Gray. (ca. 90 min.)

WEDNESDAY MAY 12

10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A PAIR OF SILK STOCKINGS. 1918. Walter Edwards. With Constance Talmadge. (ca. 60 min.)

FINE MANNERS. 1926. Richard Rosson. With Gloria Swanson, Eugene O'Brien. (ca. 80 min.)

NOTE: Further press screenings will be arranged on request, when prints are available. The schedule of the entire program will also be available upon request.

Please contact Michael Boodro, Assistant, or Lillian Gerard, Special Projects Coordinator, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019
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