

The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



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"PETER ELLENSHAW: SPECIAL EFFECTS ARTIST" FILM EXHIBITION OPENS AT MODERN

PETER ELLENSHAW: SPECIAL EFFECTS ARTIST, a Film Department exhibition of 16 feature films and an Auditorium Gallery exhibition, opens at The Museum of Modern Art on Saturday, September 15, 1979, with a noon screening of the first film on which Ellenshaw worked, THINGS TO COME (1936).

The Gallery exhibition includes: stills; matte paintings; conceptual drawings; a scale model of the space station used in the upcoming film, THE BLACK HOLE; and a video tape of Ellenshaw's work on special effects for many of the Disney films. The exhibition was directed by Mary Corliss, Curatorial Assistant, and designed by Patrick Cunningham. The Gallery exhibition opens to the public on Monday, September 17, 1979.

Sixteen feature-length films were selected for the exhibition by The Museum's Department of Film in association with Walt Disney Productions from more than 50 films on which Ellenshaw has worked over his 45 year career. The films will be shown at noon on Saturdays and Sundays, from September 15 through December 23. Among the films to be screened will be THINGS TO COME on which Ellenshaw was assistant to the art director and the 'live-action' Disney films such as 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA and MARY POPPINS, for which he won an Academy Award.

Ellenshaw's work includes such visually distinguished films as BLACK NARCISSUS, QUO VADIS and SPARTACUS and the Disney films SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON, DARBY O'GILL AND THE LITTLE PEOPLE, BEDKNOBS AND BROOMSTICKS and THE LOVE BUG. From 1936 to 1942 Ellenshaw was assistant to W. Percy Day on a number of significant British films (FOUR FEATHERS, THE THIEF OF BAGDAD, MAJOR BARBARA) and by 1946 he was main matte artist on STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN (A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH). For almost three decades he has been associated with Walt Disney Productions for whom he has participated in the making of three dozen feature films. Ellenshaw is currently production designer and director of special effects on Disney's upcoming THE BLACK HOLE.

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