

# The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel: 212-708-9400 Cable: MODERNART Telex: 62370 MODART

#41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SILENT FILM STAR BLANCHE SWEET TO APPEAR AT MoMA SEPTEMBER 24  
TO ACCEPT FILM DEPARTMENT TRIBUTE

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the film debut of one of the silent screen's most popular actresses, Blanche Sweet. When she first stepped before a camera, in 1909, she was 13 years old (and a veteran of 12 years on the stage). In such films as The Lonedale Operator and Judith of Bethulia, Miss Sweet became one of D.W. Griffith's earliest stars; she went on to still greater popularity in the 1920s in such films as Anna Christie and Tess of the D'Urbervilles.

In tribute to Blanche Sweet, the Department of Film will present a special screening on September 24 of The Sporting Venus. Miss Sweet will introduce the screening, to be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2. The Sporting Venus (1925), directed by Marshall Neilan, stars Miss Sweet, Ronald Colman, and Lew Cody in the story of a Scottish heiress who (through a misunderstanding) drops her virtuous but plebeian boyfriend for the fast life on the Continent with the shady Prince Carlos of Portugania. The screening, which will run approximately 80 minutes, will feature live piano accompaniment.

A TRIBUTE TO BLANCHE SWEET has been organized by Charles Silver, Supervisor of the Museum's Film Study Center, and Stephen Harvey, Assistant Curator in the Department of Film. The Sporting Venus is presented through the courtesy of MGM/UA.

For further information, the public may call (212) 708-9500.

August 1984

\*\*\*\*\*  
For further PRESS information, please contact Stuart Klawans, Film Press Representative,  
The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019 (212) 708-9752.  
\*\*\*\*\*