

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MoMA TO REPRISE ITS FIRST PUBLIC FILM SCREENINGS IN TWO PROGRAMS BY IRIS BARRY

As part of its anniversary celebration, 50 YEARS OF FILM AT MoMA, the Department of Film has reassembled the first two programs organized for public screenings by its founding curator, Iris Barry. The two programs of silent films will be shown in the Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2 on July 16 and 18.

The Museum's Department of Film (then called the Film Library Corporation) was founded in 1935, but it was not till the opening of the Museum's new quarters in 1939 that daily, in-house exhibitions became possible. To inaugurate the new theater, Iris Barry organized an exhibition titled A CYCLE OF SEVENTY FILMS, presenting the history of cinema through a series of 30 two-hour programs, ranging from The Execution of Mary, Queen of Scots of 1895 to I Am a Fugitive From a Chain Gang of 1932.

The first two of these programs, The Development of Narrative and The Rise of the American Film, feature such pioneering works as A Trip to the Moon (1902) by Georges Méliès, The Great Train Robbery (1903) by Edwin S. Porter, and The New York Hat (1912) by D.W. Griffith. Also included are a William S. Hart Western, The Fugitive, a Mack Sennett comedy with Ben Turpin, The Clever Dummy, and A Fool There Was, with Theda Bara.

Two Programs by Iris Barry is part of the exhibition 50 YEARS OF FILM AT MoMA. The other sections of the exhibition are Films From 1935, Twenty-Five Years of Independent Narratives: 1949-1973, and 1974-1984: An International Survey. These exhibitions are organized by Stephen Harvey, assistant curator in the Department of Film, with special assistance by Adrienne Mancina, curator, Department of Film.

For further information, the public may call (212) 708-9500. For a recorded announcement of the day's screenings: (212) 708-9490.

COMPLETE SCHEDULE IS ATTACHED

June 1985

For further PRESS information, please contact the Department of Public Information,
The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019 (212) 708-9750.

SCHEDULE

50 YEARS OF FILM AT MoMA

Two Programs by Iris Barry

Tue. 7/16 3:00 I. THE DEVELOPMENT OF NARRATIVE. The Execution of Mary, Queen of Scots. 1895. / Wash Day Troubles. 1896. / A Trip to the Moon. 1902. Georges Méliès. / The Great Train Robbery. 1903. Edwin S. Porter. / Le Tout Petit Faust (Faust). 1910. Emile Cohl. / Les Amours de la Reine Elisabeth (Queen Elizabeth). 1912. Louis Mercanton. With Sarah Bernhardt. Silent program, no musical accompaniment. Entire program c. 75 min.

6:30 THE DEVELOPMENT OF NARRATIVE.

Thu. 7/18 3:00 II. THE RISE OF THE AMERICAN FILM. The New York Hat. 1912. D.W. Griffith. With Mary Pickford, Lionel Barrymore. / The Fugitive. 1914. Thomas H. Ince. With William S. Hart. / The Clever Dummy. 1917. Herman Raymaker. With Ben Turpin. / A Fool There Was. 1914. Frank Powell. With Theda Bara. Silent program, no musical accompaniment. Entire program c. 110 min.

6:30 THE RISE OF THE AMERICAN FILM.

Both programs will be shown in the Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2.

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