

# The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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## REMEMBERING DAVID NIVEN...

Wednesday, October 23, 1985  
7:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

David Niven, archetypal gentleman and quintessential actor in both Britain and America, will be remembered by his friends and colleagues at a special tribute on Wednesday, October 23, at 7:00 p.m. at The Museum of Modern Art. This benefit for the Museum's Film Preservation Fund will be held in The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2.

The Film Preservation Fund was established in 1956 for the preservation and restoration of films in the archives of the Department of Film, which have since grown to include over 10,000 films. The combination of chemicals which gave the "silver screen" its shimmer also caused one of its biggest problems. The nitrate base of film stock up to the early fifties deteriorates and new printing materials must be made on acetate stock. This expensive and time-consuming process involves meticulous matching in the laboratory to achieve perfect contrast and tones. Every transferral is a custom job. Color films, even those produced on acetate stock, also require restoration. The Department of Film is currently engaged in a ten million dollar capital campaign to support its preservation activities.

In its fiftieth anniversary year, the Department of Film is pleased to make this benefit a celebration of the memory of David Niven, one of the most charming and energetic actors ever to grace the screen. The legacy that he and other great talents have helped to shape can be preserved for hundreds of years with donations for the Film Preservation Fund.

The evening will consist of a champagne reception at 7:00 p.m., followed by a tribute of film clips and speeches by Niven's friends Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., William S. Paley, William F. Buckley, Jr., and Jack Haley, Jr., as well as his sons James G. Niven and David Niven, Jr., both of whom are honorary chairmen for the event. Benefit chairmen are Mrs. William F. Buckley, Jr., Mrs. Henry J. Heinz II, and Mr. Paley.

REMEMBERING DAVID NIVEN... is made possible through the generous support of Hanson Industries, and its chairman, Sir Gordon White, K.B.E. This support of an American cultural institution by a British company is particularly fitting in paying tribute to a great star of both nations.

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For additional press information and photographic materials contact Jeanne Collins, director, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9747, or Howard Feinstein, film press representative, 212/708-9752.