

The Museum of Modern Art

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MoMA DEPARTMENT OF FILM SALUTES FILM AND THEATER DIRECTOR ROUBEN MAMOULIAN JANUARY 20

Veteran film and theater director Rouben Mamoulian will be honored Monday, January 20, 1986, at 6:00 p.m. by the Department of Film of The Museum of Modern Art. Mr. Mamoulian will appear in The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1 with a mint 35mm print of his 1932 musical, Love Me Tonight. The event will be the first of twelve tributes over the next year to distinguished members of the Directors Guild of America, on the occasion of the DGA's fiftieth anniversary. Love Me Tonight features a Rodgers and Hart score and a cast including Maurice Chevalier, Jeanette MacDonald, and Myrna Loy.

Among Mamoulian's New York theater credits are Porgy (1927), Porgy and Bess (1935), Oklahoma! (1943), and Carousel (1945). Mamoulian, born in Tiflis, Georgia (Russia), in 1898, came to the West as a disciple of Stanislavsky. From 1923 to 1925, he directed operas and operettas at the Eastman Theater in Rochester, New York. He directed productions for the Theater Guild School in New York from 1926 to 1929.

Mamoulian began directing films in 1929. His first film, Applause, starring Helen Morgan, explored the dynamic possibilities of sound and image. He deployed a highly mobile camera in a period when most other filmmakers maintained a static one and sacrificed visual quality to accurate sound recording. Over the next three decades, his achievements encompassed as varied genres as the gangster film, such as City Streets, and the musical, such as High, Wide and Handsome and Silk Stockings. He also directed the notable 1931 version of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde and one of the finest Greta Garbo vehicles, Queen Christina. Mamoulian was the first Hollywood director to seriously explore the dramatic and psychological possibilities of color cinematography in films such as Becky Sharp (1935) and Blood and Sand (1941).

The program DIRECTORS GUILD OF AMERICA: FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE will be held monthly. The honored director will be present and a film screened (schedule below). Other directors to be honored include Budd Boetticher (February), Blake Edwards (March), Elia Kazan, Joseph Mankiewicz, Robert Wise, Jonathan Demme, Martin Scorsese, and Arthur Penn.

The Directors Guild of America, which has 8,000 members in film, television, and radio, began with the formation of the Screen Directors Guild in 1936. King Vidor was the first president, and the original members included Rouben Mamoulian, Frank Borzage,

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Howard Hawks, Henry King, and William Wellman. In 1960 the Screen Directors Guild of America merged with the Radio and Television Directors Guild to form the Directors Guild of America, Inc. Throughout the sixties, other skilled professionals, such as assistant directors and unit production managers, became members of the DGA.

The DIRECTORS GUILD OF AMERICA: FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE has been organized by Stephen Harvey, assistant curator, and Adrienne Mancina, curator, Department of Film, with the collaboration of George Wallach, director of special projects, Directors Guild of America. Love Me Tonight is presented through the assistance of MCA/Universal, the American Film Institute, and the Library of Congress.

The schedule for the DGA anniversary tribute is as follows:

- January 20: Rouben Mamoulian
- February 24: Budd Boetticher
- March 17: Blake Edwards
- May 12: Elia Kazan
- June 16: Joseph Mankiewicz
- July 21: Robert Wise
- August 18: Jonathan Demme
- September 15: Martin Scorsese
- October 20: Arthur Penn
- November 17: To be announced
- December 8: To be announced
- January 19, 1987: To be announced

Selected stage productions by Rouben Mamoulian:

- 1927 Seven Keys to Baldpate by George M. Cohan (Garrick Theatre, London)
- Porgy by Dorothy and Du Bose Heyward (Guild Theater, New York)
- 1928 Marco Millions by Eugene O'Neill (Guild Theater, New York)
- These Modern Women by Lawrence Langner (Eltinge Theater, New York)
- Congai by Harry Harvey and Carlton Hindreth (Sam H. Harris Theater, New York)
- Wings Over Europe by Robert Nichols and Maurice Browne (Martin Beck Theater, New York)
- 1929 The Game of Love and Death by Romain Rolland (Guild Theater, New York)
- 1930 R.U.R. by Karel Capek (Martin Beck Theater, New York)
- A Month in the Country by Ivan Turgenev, adapted by Mamoulian (Guild Theater, New York)
- Die Glückliche Hand (The Hand of Fate) by Arnold Schönberg (Metropolitan Opera House, New York)
- A Farewell to Arms by Lawrence Stallings (National Theater, New York)
- Solid South by Lewton Campbell (Lyceum Theater, New York)
- 1935 Porgy and Bess by George Gershwin, Du Bose Heyward, and Ira Gershwin (Alvin Theater, New York)
- 1938 Porgy and Bess by George Gershwin, Du Bose Heyward, and Ira Gershwin (Philharmonic Auditorium, Los Angeles and San Francisco)
- 1943 Oklahoma! by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II (St. James Theater, New York)
- 1944 Sadie Thompson by Vernon Duke, Howard Dietz, and Mamoulian (Alvin Theater, New York)
- 1945 Carousel by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II (Majestic Theater, New York)

- 1946 St. Louis Woman by Harold Arlen, Johnny Mercer, A. Bontemps, and C. Cullen (Martin Beck Theater, New York)
- 1947 Oklahoma! by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II (Drury Lane, London)
- 1949 Leaf and Bough by Joseph Hayes (Cort Theater, Jamaica, New York)
Lost in the Stars by Kurt Weill and Maxwell Anderson (Music Box Theater, New York)
- 1950 Arms and the Girl by Morton Gould, Mamoulian, Herbert Fields, and Dorothy Fields (46th Street Theater, New York)
Carousel by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II (Drury Lane, London)
- 1951 Oklahoma! by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II (Broadway Theater, New York)
- 1953 Adolph Zukor's Golden Jubilee (Palladium, Hollywood)
- 1954 Carousel by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II (Civic Light Opera Co., Los Angeles and San Francisco)
- 1955 Oklahoma! by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II (for "Salute to France" program sponsored by A.N.T.A. and American State Department, in Paris, Rome, Milan, Naples, Venice)
- 1966 Shakespeare's Hamlet, A New Version by Rouben Mamoulian (Garrick Theater, Transylvania College, University of Kentucky)

For additional press information and photographic materials, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art 212/708-9752.