

The Museum of Modern Art

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GEORGE SIDNEY PRESENTS THE HARVEY GIRLS AS PART OF
DGA: FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE
AT MoMA JANUARY 19

Known for his elegant musicals, director George Sidney will be honored by The Museum of Modern Art on Monday, January 19, 1987, at 6:00 p.m. In this twelfth and final program of the DIRECTORS GUILD OF AMERICA: FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE, Mr. Sidney will introduce his 1946 Technicolor musical The Harvey Girls, starring Judy Garland, Angela Lansbury, John Hodiak, Ray Bolger, and Cyd Charisse.

The Harvey Girls celebrates the arrival of the Harvey lunchrooms in the American Southwest. Among their starched and chaste waitresses travelling the railroads is Ms. Garland, whose rendition of "On the Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe" is legendary.

Mr. Sidney entered the film industry at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in 1931, following stage and vaudeville experience. He began in the cutting and sound departments, then moved to directing film tests. He also wrote and directed short films, such as the Academy Award winners Quicker'n a Wink (1940) and Pups and Puzzles (1941). From the mid-forties through the late sixties, he directed a number of popular musicals at M-G-M, including Bathing Beauty (1944), an Esther Williams vehicle; Anchors Aweigh (1945), starring Frank Sinatra and Gene Kelly; Annie Get Your Gun (1950), with music by Irving Berlin; Show Boat (1952), based on Edna Ferber's novel about life on the Mississippi; and Viva Las Vegas (1964), with Elvis Presley and Ann-Margret. Among the films he directed at Columbia in the fifties and sixties are

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The Eddy Duchin Story (1956), a biographical drama starring Tyrone Power and Kim Novak; the musical Pal Joey (1957), with Frank Sinatra, Rita Hayworth, and Kim Novak; Jeanne Eagels (1957), based on the tragic life of the legendary stage actress; and the musical Bye-Bye Birdie (1963), with Janet Leigh, Dick Van Dyke, and Ann-Margret.

From 1951 to 1959, Mr. Sidney was president of the Directors Guild of America. He was also founding president of Hanna-Barbera Productions, which created such programs as Yogi Bear, The Flintstones, and The Jetsons for television.

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 programs, Directors Guild of America.

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