

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
April 1989

MARIN KARMITZ AND MK2

April 6 - 17, 1989

A ten-day international retrospective of films by Marin Karmitz, French film director, producer, exhibitor, and distributor, opens on April 6 at The Museum of Modern Art. MARIN KARMITZ AND MK2 presents twelve features and two short films produced by the filmmaker between 1965 and 1988, including the New York premieres of Claude Chabrol's A Story of Women (1988) and Masques (1986) and Etienne Chatiliez's Life Is a Long Quiet River (1988). Through his commitment to supporting high quality and original work, Karmitz has helped to rejuvenate the French film industry and enrich world cinema.

The series features works by major international directors, including Jean-Luc Godard, Every Man for Himself (1980); Alain Resnais, Mélo (1986); Theo Angelopoulos, The Beekeeper (1986); Ken Loach, Looks and Smiles (1981); and Yilmaz Güney, The Wall (1983). Sabine Azéma, Catherine Deneuve, Isabelle Huppert, Marcello Mastroianni, Philippe Noiret, and Jean-Louis Trintignant are among those actors appearing in the films. Films directed by Karmitz include two politically oriented works, Comrades (1970) and Blow for Blow (1972), and two short films, Comédie (1965), based on a screenplay by Samuel Beckett, and Dark Night Calcutta (1964), based on a story by Marguerite Duras. Many of the films produced by Karmitz and MK2 have won strong critical recognition, including fifty-two awards and prizes, among them thirteen from the Cannes Film Festival, seven from the Venice Film Festival, and eighteen Césars (the French equivalent of the Oscar).

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Born in Bucharest in 1938, Marin Karmitz emigrated with his family from Rumania to France in 1947. He attended film school in Paris and, later, worked as an assistant to such directors as Jean-Luc Godard and Agnes Varda. In the early sixties he formed his own company and produced around twenty short films, some of which he directed himself. He completed his first feature as a director in 1967. In 1968 he began working on his second film, Comrades, about a young worker who discovers the necessity of unionism. Karmitz's last directorial effort, Blow for Blow, is a story about a strike which was made collectively by a group of 100 unemployed factory workers.

On May Day in 1974 Karmitz opened his first theater, 14 Juillet, in what had been a restaurant in the Bastille, then a rundown area of Paris. The 14 Juillet had three screens, a bookstore, a coffee house, and a meeting room, and its program featured independent and socially concerned works from around the world. It expanded into a theater chain, one of which, 14 Juillet Odeon, was voted the best movie house in Paris for 1988. At present the MK2 Entertainment Group, the third largest independent film group in France, consists of three major branches: MK2 Vision (film exhibition), MK2 Diffusion (film distribution), and MK2 Production (film production).

Karmitz maintains other media-oriented interests, including recently acquired shares of the French television channel, M6, and a newly created, literary talk show. In 1985, in conjunction with the Compagnie Financiere de Suez, he established Canal 01, a firm specializing in the sale of film rights to television. Additionally, he holds shares in Liberation, a major daily newspaper, and has negotiated an agreement with Le Monde to coproduce television documentaries.

After its New York showing, MARIN KARMITZ AND MK2 travels to the Film Center at The Art Institute of Chicago (May 1989); the Museum of Fine Arts,

Boston (July 1989); the Pacific Film Archive, University Art Museum, UC Berkeley (July 1989); and UCLA Film and Television Archive, Los Angeles (August 1989).

MARIN KARMITZ AND MK2 is organized for the Museum by Laurence Kardish, curator, Department of Film, in collaboration with the French Film Office/Unifrance Films U.S.A. The exhibition is made possible with the support of Unifrance Film International and the cooperation of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy. The Museum is also grateful for the generous support of Celeste Bartos. The program is sponsored in part by the Hotel Parker Meridien.

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For further information or film stills, contact Sarah Eaton, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.

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MARIN KARMITZ AND MK2

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Film Schedule

Thursday, April 6

2:30 p.m.

Comrades (1970) and Comédie (1965). Marin Karmitz.

6:00 p.m.

Blow for Blow (1972). Directed by Karmitz and others.

Dark Night Calcutta (1964). Marin Karmitz.

Friday, April 7

2:30 p.m.

Masks (1986). Claude Chabrol. With Philippe Noiret, Bernadette Lafont, Robin Renucci

6:00 p.m.

A Story of Women (1988). Claude Chabrol. With Isabelle Huppert

Saturday, April 8

2:00 p.m.

Blow for Blow and Dark Night Calcutta

5:00 p.m.

Comrades and Comédie

Sunday, April 9

2:00 p.m.

A Story of Women (1988). Claude Chabrol. With Isabelle Huppert

5:00 p.m.

Le Bon Plaisir (1984). Francis Girod. With Catherine Deneuve, Jean-Louis Trintignant, Michel Serrault

Monday, April 10

2:30 p.m.
Le Bon Plaisir

6:00 p.m.
Looks and Smiles (1981). Ken Loach.

Tuesday, April 11

2:30 p.m.
Looks and Smiles

6:00 p.m.
Masks

Thursday, April 13

2:30 p.m.
Mélo (1986). Alain Resnais. With Sabine Azéma, André Dusollier, Pierre Arditi, Fanny Ardant

6:00 p.m.
Every Man for Himself (1980). Jean-Luc Godard. With Isabelle Huppert, Jacques Dutronc, Nathalie Baye

Friday, April 14

3:00 p.m.
The Wall (1983). Yilmaz Güney.

6:00 p.m.
No Man's Land (1985). Alain Tanner.

Saturday, April 15

3:00 p.m.
Life Is a Long Quiet River (1988). Etienne Chatiliez.

5:30 p.m.
Life Is a Long Quiet River

Sunday, April 16

3:00 p.m.
Mélo

5:30 p.m.
The Wall

Monday, April 17

2:30 p.m.
No Man's Land

6:00 p.m.
The Beekeeper (1986). Theo Angelopoulos. With Marcello Mastroianni
In Italian, with French subtitles

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