

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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GEORG AF KLERCKER

April 1 - 12, 1991

A survey of rediscovered silent films by Swedish director Georg af Klercker (1877-1951) opens at The Museum of Modern Art on April 1, 1991. This program of crime thrillers, domestic farces, war stories, and melodramas offers an unusual opportunity to examine the work of a virtually unknown director. All of the eleven films in **GEORG AF KLERCKER** have been recently restored and printed from the original negatives by the Swedish Film Institute. The exhibition continues through April 12.

Af Klercker's trademark is his exquisitely sharp black-and-white images fixed by a blend of natural and artificial light. He also made use of a special lens system which captured clear images of objects at distances from a few feet to a mile away. The Swedish director's career (1915-18) was overshadowed by such directors as Victor Sjöström and Mauritz Stiller, who attracted international fame during the 1920's "Golden Era" of Swedish silent film. His films were forgotten until the negatives were rediscovered years later in the vaults of Svensk Filmindustri.

Among the films in the program are *Love's Victory (Kärleken segrar)* (1916), an account of a married woman who is visited by an unwelcome figure from her past; *Reveille (Revelj)* (1917), a dramatic story of two lovers; and *In the Claws of Darkness (I mörkrets bojer)* (1917), a mystery in which the crime is solved through memory flashbacks.

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Born in 1877 in Kristianstad, Sweden, Georg af Klercker was the son of a countess and a major in the artillery. He followed in the family tradition and in 1903 became a lieutenant in one of Stockholm's royal regiments. His interest turned to theater, and, from 1909 to 1911, he studied drama in Germany and later joined the Royal Dramatic Theater in Stockholm. In 1912 af Klercker became the studio head of the Svenska Bio film company and began to direct films. The Hasselblad photographic company hired him in 1915 as its leading director for its film production division. During his three years at Hasselblad, he made a total of twenty-seven films, taking advantage of his access to skilled cameramen and technicians as well as excellent equipment. In 1919 he entered the hotel business and worked for the remainder of his life as a businessman. He appeared periodically in films and performed in stage productions.

GEORG AF KLERCKER has been organized by Jytte Jensen, assistant curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art, with the cooperation of The Swedish Film Institute, The Swedish Institute, and The Swedish Information Office, New York.

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For further information or film stills, contact the Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.

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GEORG AF KLERCKER

Exhibition Schedule

All films directed by Georg af Klercker.

Monday, April 1

3:00 p.m. *Reveille (Revelj)*. 1917. Swedish intertitles, live English voice-over. 65 min.

6:00 p.m. *Gypsy Love (Zigenarkärlek)*. 1916. English intertitles. 34 min.

Prisoner of Karlsten's Fortress (Fängen paa Karlstens Fästning). 1916. English intertitles. 51 min.

Tuesday, April 2

3:00 p.m. *Calle's New (Under)clothes (Calles nya (under)kläder)*. 1916. English intertitles. 10 min.

The Daughter of the Lighthousekeeper (Fyrvaktarens dotter). 1918. English intertitles. 57 min.

6:00 p.m. *Mother-in-Law Goes Out (Svärmor paa vift)*. 1916. English intertitles. 21 min.

Love's Victory (Kärleken segrar). 1916. English intertitles. 55 min.

Friday, April 5

3:00 p.m. *Mother-in-Law Goes Out (Svärmor paa vift)* and *Love's Victory (Kärleken segrar)*. See Tuesday, April 2 at 6:00.

6:00 p.m. *In the Claws of Darkness (I mörkrets bojer)*. 1917. Swedish intertitles, live English voice-over. 30 min.

The Town Priest (Förstadssprästen). 1917. Swedish intertitles, live English voice-over. 55 min.

Saturday, April 6

2:30 p.m. *The Mysterious Night of the 25th (Mysteriet natten till den 25:e)*. 1916. English intertitles. 41 min.

The Nobel Laureate (Nobelpristageren). 1918. English intertitles. 53 min.

5:00 p.m. *Calle's New (Under)clothes (Calles nya (under)kläder)* and *The Daughter of the Lighthousekeeper (Fyrvaktarens dotter)*. See Tuesday, April 2 at 3:00.

Sunday, April 7

2:30 p.m. *Calle's new (under)clothes (Calles nya (under)kläder)* and *The Daughter of the Lighthousekeeper (Fyrvaktarens dotter)*. See Tuesday, April 2 at 3:00.

5:00 p.m. *Reveille (Revelj)*. See Monday, April 1 at 3:00.

Tuesday, April 9

3:00 p.m. *In the Claws of Darkness (I mörkrets bojer)* and *The Town Priest (Förstadssprästen)*. See Friday, April 5 at 6:00.

6:00 p.m. *The Mysterious Night of the 25th (Mysteriet natten till den 25:e)* and *The Nobel Laureate (Nobelpristageren)*. See Saturday, April 6 at 2:30.

Friday, April 12

3:00 p.m. *Gypsy Love (Zigenarkärlek)* and *Prisoner of Karlsten's Fortress (Fangen paa Karlstens Fästning)*. See Monday, April 1 at 6:00.

6:00 p.m. *Reveille (Revelj)*. See Monday, April 1 at 3:00.

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