

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION **YIDDISH FILM BETWEEN TWO WORLDS**

DATES November 14, 1991 - January 9, 1992

ORGANIZATION Adrienne Mancia, Curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art; Sharon Pucker Rivo, Executive Director, The National Center for Jewish Film, located at Brandeis University; and J. Hoberman, author and film critic, *The Village Voice*.

SPONSOR Supported by a grant from The Nathan Cummings Foundation. Funding for the accompanying publication was provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The gallery exhibition is made possible by the Rita J. and Stanley H. Kaplan Foundation in memory of Gladys and Saul Gwartzman.

CONTENT This first major retrospective of Yiddish cinema comprises films made in the United States and Europe from the 1920s through the 1980s. The exhibition includes melodramas, farces, tragedies, musical comedies, and documentaries that capture the talents of such international stars as Ida Kaminska, Lila Lee, Solomon Mikhoels, Molly Picon, and Maurice Schwartz. While only a fragment of the once vibrant world of Yiddish theater and cinema survives, these films depict the concerns and values of Yiddish culture and preserve the nuances of the Yiddish language.

 Chronicling the struggle for Jewish identity on both sides of the Atlantic, the exhibition features *Yiddle with His Fiddle* (1936) and *The Dybbuk* (1937), from Poland; *Jewish Luck* (1925) and *The Return of Nathan Beck* (1934), from Russia; *East and West* (1923), from Austria; and *Uncle Moses* (1932), *Tevye* (1939), and *God, Man, and Devil* (1950), from the United States. Several recent films, including *Brussels Transit* (1980), from Belgium, and *If They Give, Take* (1983), from Israel, offer a contemporary glimpse of Yiddish-language drama.

 The National Center for Jewish Film is in the process of preserving and restoring over twenty-five films from its Rutenberg and Everett Yiddish Film Library. Most of the films in this exhibition have new or restored English subtitles or intertitles. Silent films are accompanied by live piano.

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- GALLERY EXHIBITION A gallery exhibition of film-still enlargements and posters has been organized by Mary Corliss, Assistant Curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art.

- SPECIAL EVENTS An evening of Yiddish poetry and music is being planned in conjunction with the exhibition (details to be announced).

- PUBLICATION *Bridge of Light: Yiddish Film Between Two Worlds* by J. Hoberman. 382 pages. 150 black-and-white illustrations. Published by The Museum of Modern Art and Schocken Books. Hardbound, \$35.

- TRAVEL After the New York showing, the exhibition travels to Berlin, London, Jerusalem, Boston, and Berkeley, among other cities.

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For further information or film stills, contact Barbara Marshall, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.