

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release

"CANNES: LE FESTIVAL, 45 YEARS OF CINEMA" TO BE PRESENTED AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, SUMMER 1992

June 24, 1991....The Museum of Modern Art announced today a major film exhibition, **CANNES: LE FESTIVAL, 45 YEARS OF CINEMA**, in recognition of the world's best known and most prestigious film festival. The exhibition celebrates the phenomenon of this Mediterranean event, held annually in May, with a selection of films presented at Cannes from the first Festival in 1946 through the next Festival to be held in 1992.

On view from June 19 through October 10, 1992, the exhibition will mark the forty-fifth anniversary of the Festival, officially known in France as the *Festival International du Film*. Opening with a gala premiere of a new film, the retrospective will comprise over 120 classics as well as rarely seen works from world cinema. Also included will be films that were selected for the first Festival, which, initially planned for September 1939, was postponed by the war for six years. The exhibition has been organized by Mary Lea Bandy, director, and Laurence Kardish, curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art. It will be accompanied by an illustrated catalogue and a Festival chronology.

Ms. Bandy stated, "In the world of international cinema, Cannes is the busiest of crossroads. Like Hollywood, it is both concept and place, and from its inception has influenced film art and commerce through its recognition and promotion of both new and established filmmakers from every corner of the globe. This exhibition will, we believe, reveal significant accomplishments, trends, and talents that have emerged along the way."

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Gilles Jacob, délégué general, International Festival du Film, added, "We are delighted that The Museum of Modern Art is planning to honor the Cannes Film Festival in New York next summer. Thanks to the Festival, national cinemas and schools of filmmaking have become well known to the international film community. Many great directors and stars whose work has been shown at Cannes have received their first international acceptance here. The exhibition will chronicle the historical significance of the Festival and capture the rich and varied character which has marked it from its debut."

At Cannes, chosen for its setting and its sunshine, the yearly gathering of cinephiles *sans frontieres* (without frontiers) has grown in recent years to attract approximately 18,000 professionals and 3,000 journalists. Mr. Kardish notes, "Through art, commerce, and a juried competition, the Cannes Film Festival has promoted the idea of a global community whose heterogeneous interests may be expressed through the universal language of cinema." Each year the Festival awards, or *Palmarès*, note achievements in filmmaking, headed by the *Palme d'Or* (Golden Palm) for best film in the official selection, awarded by an international jury of noted filmmakers--directors, producers, actors, writers, cinematographers, and composers--and critics; and the *Caméra d'Or* (Golden Camera), created in 1978 by Gilles Jacob for best first feature film presented in any section, awarded by a separate jury.

In addition to recognizing new and important French films, this international festival has long appreciated the role of American cinema, and accordingly the United States has had an important presence in Cannes--from the first Festival's presentations of *Gaslight* (George Cukor, 1944), *Gilda* (Charles Vidor, 1946), *Notorious* (Alfred Hitchcock, 1946), and *The Lost Weekend* (Billy Wilder, 1945), among others, to the more recent *Taxi Driver*

(Martin Scorsese, 1976), *Stranger Than Paradise* (Jim Jarmusch, 1984), *Do the Right Thing* (Spike Lee, 1989), *Bird* (Clint Eastwood, 1988), *Sex, Lies, and Videotape* (Steven Soderberg, 1989), and this year's *Barton Fink* (Joel and Ethan Coen), which received the *Palme d'Or*.

The films in **CANNES: LE FESTIVAL** will be chosen from among those films invited by the Festival: the official selection, which includes *Un Certain Regard* (a non-competitive section); *La Semaine Internationale de la Critique Française* (Critic's Week); *Quinzaine des Réalisateurs* (Directors' Fortnight); and *Perspectives du Cinéma Français* (a panorama of young French filmmakers' work).

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