

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

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The Museum of Modern Art's Department of Film is presenting an exhibition of 35 action stills in the Museum Auditorium Gallery from October 5 through December 13. The exhibition entitled THE ACTION STILL is a tribute to the "still man" -- the anonymous artist among film technicians upon whose work depends much of the success of a movie. The exhibition of stills from about 25 different feature films, made from 1915 to the present, was selected by Willard Van Dyke, Director of the Department of Film, and installed by Kathleen Haven, Graphics Coordinator.

THE ACTION STILL consists of the work of those unknown photographers whose photographs advertise motion pictures, but whose work remains without credit -- neither on the billboard, nor in the film. In recent years these photographers have abandoned large tripod-mounted cameras, which demanded that the actors assume static poses, in favor of lightweight hand-held equipment, and have captured the feeling of spontaneous action that was lacking in most early stills.

The stills range from a shot from THE BIRTH OF A NATION made by D. W. Griffith in 1915 to scenes from the unreleased pictures THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE with Julie Andrews and IS PARIS BURNING? Enlarged stills from such cinema favorites as NORTH BY NORTHWEST, GONE WITH THE WIND, THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, JULES ET JIM and BEN HUR are on view, as well as photographs of Jean-Paul Belmondo in A WOMAN IS A WOMAN, Clark Gable in BOOM TOWN, John Wayne in HONDO, Douglas Fairbanks in THE BLACK PIRATE, and Gene Kelly in SINGING IN THE RAIN. The recent feature films MY FAIR LADY, WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF and DR. ZHIVAGO also are represented. The four color shots from GRAND PRIX, to be released in December, add a footnote to the current exhibition on the first floor of the Museum, THE RACING CAR: TOWARD A RATIONAL AUTOMOBILE, in which an actual Grand Prix winner is shown.

Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Linda Gordon, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.