

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

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A subscription series of six programs of new and old films seldom or never shown in this country will be presented by the Museum of Modern Art Film Library every other Thursday evening beginning October 6 for the benefit of the Film Preservation Fund. The dozen films to be shown include The Treasurer's Report, a "lost" short with Robert Benchley, Katherine Hepburn in her film debut, A Bill of Divorcement, a 19th century newsreel of Queen Victoria and her sons, the English film on the history of the popular song Lili Marlene, wartime propaganda films made by the Japanese and the Nazis, the first pre-historic epic directed by D.W. Griffith, rare Harold Lloyd and Charles Chaplin comedies, and Die Dreigroschenoper, the original screen version of "Three Penny Opera", with English titles. (Complete program given below)

The Film Preservation Fund, which will benefit from the series, has recently been set up to finance the transfer of the most important films in the Film Library Collection from nitrate film stocks, which perish after 30 years, to the new and more durable triacetate stock which was developed to last 400 years. Tickets are \$10 for the series of six film evenings. No tickets for single evenings will be sold.

Richard Griffith, Curator of the Museum's Film Library, says of the series:

"It is now twenty years since the Museum of Modern Art added the motion picture to the arts of our time which are its special province. Its Film Library has since recovered and restored to sight a large proportion of those films through which the movie medium has progressed since 1895. Daily showings of these films in the Museum and their circulation to colleges and other institutions has brought a new sense of film styles and traditions to new generations of students, and lent new prestige to the art of the motion picture.

"By now, the Museum's collection of films has grown so large that many new acquisitions wait an undue time before being shown. Other films, some of which have been part of the collection for a considerable time, came to the Film Library in negative form and could not be shown until funds were available to make positive prints. To remedy this situation, and because many members and friends of the Museum are not free to attend daytime showings, a special series of newly acquired or hitherto unseen films will be given on alternate Thursday evenings during October, November and December in the Museum's auditorium at 8:45 p.m.

"The Museum is grateful to producers and film owners who have loaned prints for the series or financed printing from Museum negatives: in particular to David O. Selznick for the loan of his memorable A Bill of Divorcement, in which John Barrymore

gave his most remarkable performance in talking pictures; to Jack L. Warner for permission to show G.W. Pabst's celebrated Die Dreigroschenoper, based on the Kurt Weill musical play which was revived in New York last year as "The Threepenny Opera"; to 20th Century-Fox for the loan of Robert Benchley's classic The Treasurer's Report; to Paul Killiam, who printed The British Royal Family and Man's Genesis from the Museum's Biograph and Edison negatives; to the Cinematheque Francaise for Les Volontaires de La Mort and to the Cinematheque de Belgique for the loan of Rudolph Valentino's personal print of Blood and Sand."

THURSDAY EVENING FILM SERIES AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART - Beginning October 6, 1955

- Oct. 6: **THE TREASURER'S REPORT.** (1928) By and with Robert Benchley.
The inimitable Mr. Benchley as the treasurer of a small town club makes his report to the members. A rare Benchley classic.
- A BILL OF DOVORCEMENT.** (1932) A David O. Selznick production, directed by George Cukor, from the play by Clemence Dane.
Katherine Hepburn's film debut and John Barrymore's finest screen performance. Has not been shown since it was revived about 12 years ago.
- Oct. 20: **SAFETY LAST.** (1923) Directed by Fred Newmeyer, with Harold Lloyd, Mildred Davis.
Harold Lloyd as an unwilling human fly.
- PAY DAY** (1921) Directed by Charles Chaplin, with Chaplin, Edna Purviance, Mack Swain.
A henpecked Charlie eludes his wife and spends his pay check on a spree.
- Nov. 3: **THE BRITISH ROYAL FAMILY** (1897) Photographed on the lawn of Balmoral Castle by an unknown cameraman. Queen Victoria and her children, including the late King Edward VII and the Duke of Windsor who is seen hoop rolling.
- MAN'S GENESIS** (1912) Directed by D.W. Griffith. The first pre-historic epic film made by one of the masters of film direction.
- BLOOD AND SAND** (1923) Directed by Fred Niblo, from the novel by Vicente Blasco Ibanez. With Rudolph Valentino, Lila Lee, Nita Naldi.
This is the personal print that was in the possession of the great silent screen star, Rudolph Valentino and was presented to the Museum by his fans.
- Nov. 17: **LES VOLONTAIRES DE LA MORT.** (1943) Japanese propaganda film about Kamikaze pilots, climaxing with the attack on Pearl Harbor. Made with French titles.
- LA LIBRE AMERIQUE.** (1943) One issue of a Nazi newsreel distributed in occupied France as anti-America propaganda.
- LILI MARLENE.** (1944) Directed by Humphrey Jennings. This British film tells the history of the popular wartime song, originally used by the Germans 'liberated' by the British.
- Dec. 1: **DIE DREIGROSCHENOPER** (1931) Directed by G.W. Pabst, from the play by Kurt Weill and Berthold Brecht, with Lotte Lenja, Rudolph Forster, Carola Neher, Fritz Rasp, Valeska Gert, Vladimir Sokoloff, Reinhold Schunzel. This is the original screen version of the famous musical recently presented in New York as "The Threepenny Opera." An English title version has been loaned to the Museum by the British Film Institute.
- Dec. 15: To be announced.