EARLY FERNANDEL FILM AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Marcel Pagnol's "Angèle," with Fernandel, will be shown August 4 - 7 at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, the current film in the summer series "60 Years of French Film."

Highly regarded for its rich atmospheric portrayal of the peasants and landscape of Provence, this 1931 film tells the simple story of a French farm family disrupted by a migratory laborer. Angèle, (Orane Domazis), daughter of the family, goes to Marseilles with the laborer, bears his child, and is abandoned. A well-meaning hired hand, played by Fernandel, induces Angèle to return to the farm. Her father (Henri Poupon), shamed and outraged, locks Angèle and the child out of sight in the cellar. But an honest young farmer from a nearby village, long in love with Angèle, finally persuades her father to accept him as a son-in-law.

Produced, written and directed by Pagnol, the script is based on a novel by Jean Giono. Vincent Scotto's musical score is effective.

When the film was first shown in New York as Heartbeat in 1939, critics complained of the extensive cutting - one full hour. The Museum's complete version runs for 2 1/2 hours permitting one daily showing only at 3 p.m.

For further information please contact Herbert Bronstein, Assistant Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York City, Circle 5-8900.