

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

October 11, 1957
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
No. 107a.

GERMAN FILM INDUSTRY MAKES NEW FILMS AVAILABLE AT MUSEUM

From the dozens of recent unreleased films made available by the Export-Union of the German Film Industry for the Museum of Modern Art, four so far have been selected for showings the week of October 23 in the Museum Auditorium. They are: The Captain from Koepenick, Confessions of Felix Krull, Sky without Stars and Reaching for the Stars. The others will be announced shortly. All films are expected to be released commercially in the near future, according to Munio Podhorzer, Export-Union representative here.

Richard Griffith, Curator of the Museum Film Library, is making the selection from films flown here. None of the seven films to be shown during the week have ever been seen in the United States.

The week of new films, the first concerted presentation of production of the now-emerging German film industry, will be inaugurated by a gala opening on October 23 at which The Captain from Koepenick will be shown to an invited audience. The German Ambassador, H. L. Krekeler, will be guest of honor. The topical Sky without Stars will be shown on October 24, Confessions of Felix Krull based on Mann's novel on October 25, and Reaching for the Stars, a juggler's tragic attempt to achieve perfection, on October 26.

Following the week of new films, the Museum will present the most complete retrospective German film cycle ever held in this country, "PAST AND PRESENT: A Selection of German Films, 1896 - 1957." The films are being shown in connection with the major fall exhibition at the Museum, "German Art of the 20th Century."

The Captain from Koepenick (Der Hauptmann von Köpenick) (1956), by Helmut Käutner and Carl Zuckmayer, based on Zuckmayer's stage classic, was both a silent and a sound film before. "Although the old play was a spoof on German militarism," says Mr. Griffith, "it contained nothing like this full-scale attack, at once savage and compassionate, on the regimentation of the old German society and its placing of rank above every human quality." In Eastmancolor, this Real Production features Heinz Rühmann, Hannelore Schroth, Martin Held and Erich Schellow.

Confessions of Felix Krull (Bekenntnisse des Hochstaplers Felix Krull), a second highlight of the German film week, is based on Thomas Mann's novel published shortly before his death. "It comes to the screen," says Mr. Griffith, "as a witty picaresque tale elaborating one of Mann's favorite themes, that the criminal

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and the artist are brothers under the skin. In this sparkling evocation of continental society on the eve of World War I, the young hero, brilliantly played by Horst Buchholz, owes his rise to success to his ability to pander to vice in the most impeccably respectable way." Produced by Filmaufbau, GmbH., Felix Krull stars Lisa Pulver, now under contract with Universal, Ingrid Andree, Susi Nicoletti and Paul Dahlke.

A theme of current immediacy, the shattering effect on human beings of a divided Germany, is treated in Sky Without Stars (Himmel ohne Sterne), written and directed by Helmut Käutner and produced by NDF. Eva Kotthaus, as a young worker in the East Zone, plays opposite Erik Schuman, a West Zone border policeman.

Schuman, again, in Reaching for the Stars (Griff nach den Sternen), another NDF production, appears as Turell, the world's greatest juggler, doomed by his pursuit of unattainable perfection. Carl-Heinz Schroth directed a cast including Lisa Pulver, Oliver Grimm, Ilse Werner and Sybil Werden.

All new films are provided by the Export-Union of the German Film Industry through its New York representative, Mr. Munio Podhorzer. Cooperation was extended by the Federal Republic of Germany, German Federal Railroads, and by Lufthansa German airlines.

A complete listing of the entire program "PAST AND PRESENT: A Selection of German Films, 1896 - 1957" will be available shortly.

For stills and additional information please contact Herbert Bronstein, Assistant Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street. CI 5-8900

After careful study and consideration of the photographs a number of artists will be requested to submit examples of their work. Final selection will be made in New York from this group. It is hoped that the exhibition will include approximately 75 pieces of sculpture. Artists may be represented by more than one work.

The Junior Council expects to establish regional collection points for long distance shipment of the actual works of art to New York. Costs of transportation and insurance from these points will be borne by the Junior Council, while the artists will be responsible for delivery and insurance to the collection point nearest their residence. The Junior Council will return all sculpture entries prepaid.

All works submitted must be for sale and sales will be promoted in so far as possible. The Junior Council will deduct a 10 percent handling charge from each sale price.

For additional information please contact Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, N. Y. C. CI 5-8900.