

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

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film

No. 128

FOR RELEASE

Thursday, November 14, 1957

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART TO SHOW THE LAST LAUGH

Two Ufa productions of the early Twenties, The Chronicle of the Gray House (excerpt) and The Last Laugh, will be shown at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, November 14 - 16, the current program in the series "Past and Present: A Selection of German Films, 1896 - 1957." There will be daily showings at 3 and 5:30.

Cut off from external sources during World War I, the isolated German film industry developed innovations in technique and theory. Continued government subsidy after the war encouraged cinematic advancement, as a means of regaining international prestige as well as for domestic consumption. During the "great period" of 1919 - 1925 the Ufa studios were dominant.

The Chronicle of the Gray House (1923), an extravagant prestige picture, is an atmospheric medieval saga produced with typical lavishness of the period. Arthur von Gerlach directed a cast including Paul Hartmann, Lil Dagover, Arthur Kraussneck and Rudolph Rittner.

F.W. Murnau's The Last Laugh (1924) brought universal acclaim. Its revolutionary camera technique and unified dramatic treatment markedly influenced Hollywood at the time. Murnau, the director, Karl Freund, the cameraman, Carl Mayer, the scenarist and Emil Mannings, the principal actor, were mutually responsible for a then unparalleled pictorial unit.

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