

film 268

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

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TWO GERMAN FILMS AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART: HANDS, ASPHALT

Continuing the series "Past and Present: a Selection of German Films, 1896 - 1957," the November 24 - 27 program at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, will be Hands and Asphalt. There will be daily showings at 3 and 5:30.

In the view of Stella Simon, director of Hands (1938), the film is an attempt to fulfill the basic laws of the cinematic medium without the obscuring presence of actors. Hands only are photographed, in poetic sequences, permitting human expression while excluding the actor's ego. Assisted by Miklos Bandy, Mrs. Simon, an American photographer, made the film in Berlin. She insists her work has no serious message or implication beyond treatment of abstract pattern in time and space. An original piano score, composed and played by Marc Blitzstein, has been added.

Produced for Ufa by Erich Pommer and directed by Joe May, Asphalt (1929) is one of a series of German "street films" in which the excitement and dangers of the street present a moral challenge to respectable citizens. Elements of sex, violence and repentance are intrinsic to the genre. In Asphalt, a policeman risks his professional honor in an adventure with a thievish tart, murders a man when attacked in her flat, and is later exonerated by the woman's confession. Albert Steinrück, Else Heller, Gustav Fröhlich and Betty Amann are included in the cast.

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