

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

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film

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FISCHINGER AND FRITZ LANG FILMS AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Another abstract film by Oskar Fischinger, Studie No. 11, and Fritz Lang's The Last Will of Dr. Mabuse (Das Testament des Mr. Mabuse) will be the 3 and 5:30 daily showings December 8 - 11 at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street.

It is the current program in the series "Past and Present: A Selection of German Films, 1896 - 1957."

Studie No. 11 (1932), abstract forms set to a minuet by Mozart, is an early experiment in the long sequence of "absolute films" still being made by Fischinger. Constructed under an esthetic discipline which regards people, settings and plot as extraneous, pattern, space, motion and rhythm are the only elements involved.

A melodrama of a madman's plot to conquer the world through terrorism, The Last Will of Dr. Mabuse (1933) was the last film made by Fritz Lang in Germany. It was immediately banned by the Nazis. Lang, long considered a master in the treatment of psychological aberrations (M, Metropolis, Fury) said of Dr. Mabuse: "This film was made as an allegory, to show Hitler's processes of terrorism. Slogans and doctrines of the Third Reich have been put into the mouths of criminals in the film. Thus I hoped to expose the masked Nazi theory of the necessity to deliberately destroy everything which is precious to a people so that they would lose all faith in the institutions and ideals of the State. Then, when everything collapsed and they were thrown into utter despair, they would try to find help in the 'new order.'" Produced by Nero Film, scenario by Thea von Harbou (Mrs. Lang), the cast includes Rudolf Klein-Rogge, Gustav Diessl, Otto Wernicke and Oscar Beregi. No English titles.

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