

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

No. 80

For release:

Thursday, November 6, 1958

EARLY SILENT FILMS AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The First Sixty Years, Part II, eleven programs designed to trace the development of narrative in the American motion picture from the earliest films to the coming of sound, will be shown at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, November 6 through mid-January. There will be daily screenings at 3 and 5.30.

Opening the series, November 6 - 8, will be seven early films, 1893 - 1911. They are: THE EXECUTION OF MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS (1893-4), WASHDAY TROUBLES (1895), A TRIP TO THE MOON (1902), THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY (1903), RESCUED BY ROVER (1905), POSSIBILITIES OF WAR IN THE AIR (1909), and QUEEN ELIZABETH, with Sarah Bernhardt, (1911).

The First Sixty Years, Part II continues a retrospective history of the motion picture interspersed between such Museum series as the recent Rotha and the prospective Dietrich cycles. The entire retrospect will comprise more than 200 programs during a two-year period.

In the past few years the Museum Film Library has devoted most of its public screenings to special film series (Goldwyn, UFA, French, German, Zinneman, etc.). Not since 1939, when a retrospective cycle of 300 films launched the auditorium programs, has the Film Library presented a chronological survey based on its collection. Now, with new acquisitions to the collection and with special films borrowed for the occasion, the student, connoisseur and fan will be able to review the whole range of film history during the first sixty years of its growth as the most popular art of the Twentieth Century.

Following the earliest beginnings of narrative, Part II of the survey will consider the rise of the American film, the basis of modern technique, Von Stroheim and realism, the German influence, the end of the silent era, and the coming of sound. Included will be such masterpieces as Intolerance, Greedy and Sunrise.

Complete listing attached

or additional information please contact Herbert Bronstein, Assistant Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. CI 5-8900.

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART FILM LIBRARY
11 West 53 Street
New York 19

Film showings daily at 3:00 and 5:30 p.m. except where noted.
Music for the silent films arranged and played by Arthur Kleiner.

THE FIRST SIXTY YEARS: Part II

The American Film: The Development of Narrative

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| Nov. 6-8
1958 | 1. Beginnings
1893-4 THE EXECUTION OF MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS, produced by the Edison Company, directed by William Heiss.
1895 WASHDAY TROUBLES, directed by Edmund Kuhn.
1902 A TRIP TO THE MOON, by Georges Méliès.
1903 THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY, by Edwin S. Porter.
1905 RESCUED BY ROVER, by Cecil Hepworth.
1909 POSSIBILITIES OF WAR IN THE AIR, by Charles Urban.
1911 QUEEN ELIZABETH, with Sarah Bernhardt. |
| Nov. 9-15 | 2. The Rise of the American Film
1909 A CORNER IN WHEAT, directed by D. W. Griffith.
1912 THE NEW YORK HAT, directed by Griffith, with Mary Pickford.
1914 A FOOL THERE WAS, directed by Frank Powell, with Theda Bara. |
| Nov. 16-22 | 3. The Basis of Modern Technique
1916 INTOLERANCE, directed by D. W. Griffith, with Mae Marsh, Robert Harron, Lillian Gish, Erich von Stroheim, Constance Talmadge, and others. <u>One showing only at 3:00 p.m.</u> |
| Nov. 23-29 | 4. The Basis of Modern Technique
1903 THE LIFE OF AN AMERICAN FIREMAN, directed by Edwin S. Porter.
1915 KENO BATES, LIAR (THE LAST CARD), supervised by Thomas H. Ince, with William S. Hart.
1915 THE COWARD, directed by Reginald Barker, supervised by Thomas H. Ince, with Charles Ray. <u>One showing only at 3:00 on Nov. 27</u> |
| Nov. 30
-Dec. 6 | 5. Von Stroheim and Realism
1919 BLIND HUSBANDS, directed by Erich von Stroheim, with Stroheim. |
| Dec. 7-13 | 6. Von Stroheim and Realism
1924 GREED, directed by Erich von Stroheim, with Zasu Pitts, Gibson Gowland, Jean Hersholt. <u>One showing only at 3:00 p.m.</u> |
| Dec. 14-20 | 7. The German Influence
1928 HANDS, by Stella Simon.
1927 SUNRISE, directed by F. W. Murnau, with Janet Gaynor, George O'Brien. <u>One showing only at 3:00 p.m.</u> |
| Dec. 21-27 | 8. The End of the Silent Era
1928 THE LAST COMMAND, directed by Josef von Sternberg, with Emil Jannings. <u>No showing Dec. 25, and 3:00 only on Dec. 24.</u> |
| Dec. 28
-Jan. 3
1959 | 9. The Coming of Sound
1927 Two scenes from THE JAZZ SINGER, directed by Alan Crosland, with Al Jolson.
1927 MOVIE-TONE NEWS-REEL, with George Bernard Shaw.
1928 A sequence from LIGHTS OF NEW YORK, directed by Bryan Foy, with Helene Costello, Cullen Landis.
1928 THE SEX LIFE OF THE POLYP, with Robert Benchley. |
| Jan. 4-10 | 10. The Coming of Sound
1929 HALLELUJAH, directed by King Vidor, with Daniel L. Haynes and Nina Mae McKinney. <u>One showing only at 3:00 p.m.</u> |
| Jan. 11-17 | 11. The Coming of Sound
1929 THE LOVE PARADE, directed by Ernst Lubitsch with Maurice Chevalier and Jeanette MacDonald. <u>One showing only at 3:00 p.m.</u> |