

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

Film

No. 6

FOR RELEASE

Sunday, January 18, 1959

## THE SUPERPRODUCTION, FILM SERIES AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The Superproduction, a film series at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, will begin January 18-24 with Cecil B. de Mille's Male and Female. The 1919 film, with Gloria Swanson, Lila Lee, Thomas Meighan and Bebe Daniels, will be the first of 11 programs illustrating the Barnum tradition in the movies. On view for one week each, the series will continue with The Thief of Bagdad (1924), America (1924), Beau Geste (1926), King Kong (1933), The Lives of a Bengal Lancer (1935), Romeo and Juliet (1936), The Good Earth (1937), Marie Antoinette (1938), Wuthering Heights (1939) and How Green Was My Valley (1941).

"The descendent of vaudeville and the circus," says Richard Griffith, Curator of the Film Library, "the superproduction genre has given us a great many films which represent the medium at its best. The need for spectacle and excitement brings into play the film's capacity for sweeping movement, overwhelming action, pace and rhythm. It is true that the superproduction has lent itself to the immemorial vulgarities of Western civilization - false history, grandiloquence, and spurious taste in costume and design. But it has also given us the true nature of hand-to-hand combat in Griffith's America, the astounding science fiction of King Kong, the plague of locusts in the Good Earth along with that film's amazing performances, the derring-do of the Thief of Bagdad, Beau Geste and The Lives of a Bengal Lancer. A favorite whipping boy of critics, the superproduction yet contains the exuberant essence of movie."

The Superproduction is Part III of The First Sixty Years, a review of the entire range of film history during its growth as the most popular art of the Twentieth Century. 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. The First Sixty Years will continue during a two-year period, interspersed between special film cycles.

Complete listing attached.

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Further information available from Herbert Bronstein, Assistant Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York. 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 except where noted.  
Music for the silent films arranged and played by Arthur Kleiner.

THE FIRST SIXTY YEARS: PART III

THE SUPERPRODUCTION

1959

- Jan. 18-24     1919 MALE AND FEMALE, Paramount, directed by Cecil B. DeMille, scenario by Jeanie MacPherson, based on James M. Barrie's "The Admirable Crichton," photography by Alvin Wyckoff; with Lila Lee, Gloria Swanson, Thomas Meighan, Theodore Roberts, Raymond Hatton, Robert Kane, Bebe Daniels, Mildred Reardon.
- Jan. 25-31     1924 THE THIEF OF BAGDAD, produced by Douglas Fairbanks for United Artists, directed by Raoul Walsh, scenario by Lotta Woods based on "The Arabian Nights and a story by Fairbanks and Elton Thomas, photography by Arthur Edeson; with Douglas Fairbanks, Snitz Edwards, Julianne Johnston, Anna May Wong. One showing only at 3:00
- Feb. 1-7        1924 AMERICA, United Artists, directed by D. W. Griffith, story by Robert W. Chambers, photography by G. W. Bitzer, and others; with Neil Hamilton, Carol Dempster, Lionel Barrymore, Louis Wolheim, Erville Alderson, Charles Emmett Mack, Lee Beggs, Arthur Donaldson, Charles Bennett, Dowling Clark, Frank Walsh. One showing only at 3:00
- Feb. 8-14      1926 BEAU GESTE, Paramount, directed by Herbert Brenon, scenario by Paul Schofield, based on a novel by Percival C. Wren adapted by John Russell, photography by J. Roy Hunt; with Ronald Colman, Neil Hamilton, Ralph Forbes, Alice Joyce, Mary Brian, Noah Beery, Norman Trevor, William Powell, George Rigas, Bernard Siegal, Victor McLaglen, Donald Stuart, Paul McAllister.
- Feb. 15-21     1933 KING KONG, produced by David O. Selznick for RKO-Radio, directed by Merian Cooper and Ernest Schoedsack, scenario by James Creelman and Ruth Rose from a story by Cooper and Schoedsack, photography by Edward Linden, Verne Walker and J. O. Taylor, art direction by Carroll Clark and Al Herman, edited by Ted Cheesman, music by Max Steiner; with Fay Wray, Robert Armstrong, Bruce Cabot, Frank Reicher, Sam Hardy, Noble Johnson, James Flavin, Steve Clemento, Victor Wong.
- Feb. 22-28     1935 THE LIVES OF A BENGAL LANCER, produced by Louis D. Lighton for Paramount, directed by Henry Hathaway, screenplay by Waldemar Young, John Balderston and Achmed Abjullah, based on the book by Francis Yeats-Brown, photography by Charles Lang, location photography by Ernest Schoedsack, edited by Ellsworth Hoagland; with Gary Cooper, Franchot Tone, Richard Cromwell, Sir Guy Standing, C. Aubrey Smith, Monte Blue, Akim Tamiroff, Noble Johnson, Charles Stevens, Mischa Auer.
- Mar. 1-7        1936 ROMEO AND JULIET, produced by Irving Thalberg for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, directed by George Cukor, screenplay by Talbot Jennings, based on Shakespeare's play, photography by William Daniels, art direction by Cedric Gibbons, dances directed by Agnes de Mille, musical score by Herbert Stothart; with Norma Shearer, Leslie Howard, Edna May Oliver, John Barrymore, C. Aubrey Smith, Basil Rathbone, Andy Devine, Conway Tearle. One showing only at 3:00
- Mar. 8-14      1937 THE GOOD EARTH, produced by Irving Thalberg for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, directed by Sydney Franklin, scenario by Talbot Jennings based on the novel by Pearl S. Buck, photography by Karl Freund, art direction by Cedric Gibbons, music by Herbert Stothart; with Paul Muni, Luise Rainer, Walter Connolly, Tilly Losch, Charley Grapewin, Jessie Ralph, Soo Yong, Keye Luke, Roland Lui, Suzanna Kim. One showing only at 3:00

- Mar. 15-21 1938 MARIE ANTOINETTE, produced by Hunt Stromberg for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, directed by W. S. Van Dyke, scenario by Claudine West, Donald Ogden Stewart and Ernest Vajda, based in part on the book by Stefan Zweig, photography by William Daniels, montage effects by Slavko Vorkapich, art direction by Cedric Gibbons, dances by Albertina Rasch, musical score by Herbert Stothart; with Norma Shearer, Tyrone Power, John Barrymore, Robert Morley, Anita Louise, Joseph Schildkraut, Gladys George, Henry Stephenson, Cora Witherspoon.  
One showing only at 3:00
- Mar. 22-28 1939 WUTHERING HEIGHTS, produced by Samuel Goldwyn for United Artists, directed by William Wyler, scenario by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur based on the novel by Emily Bronte, photography by Gregg Toland, art direction by James Basevi, edited by Daniel Mandell; with Merle Oberon, Laurence Olivier, David Niven, Flora Robson, Donald Crisp, Geraldine Fitzgerald, Hugh Williams, Leo G. Carroll, Cecil Humphreys.
- Mar. 29-Apr. 4 1941 HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY, produced by Darryl F. Zanuck for 20th Century-Fox, directed by John Ford, scenario by Philip Dunne based on the novel by Richard Llewellyn, photography by Arthur Miller, music arranged by Alfred Newman; with Walter Pidgeon, Maureen O'Hara, Donald Crisp, Anna Lee, Roddy McDowall, John Lodger, Sara Allgood, Barry Fitzgerald, Patric Knowles, Ann Todd, The Welsh Singers.