

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

No. 79

For release

Sunday

October 4, 1959

POTEMKIN AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Potemkin (1925), S. M. Eisenstein's masterpiece, will be shown October 4 - 10 at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, one screening daily at 3 p.m.

"Potemkin," Eisentstein wrote, "was an episode of revolutionary heroism calculated to electrify the masses....Our psychological approach is on the one hand that of the great Russian scholar, Pavlov, with his principle of reflexology, and on the other, that of the Austrian Freud--the principle of psychoanalysis. Take the scene in "Potemkin" where the Cossacks slowly, deliberately walk down the Odessa steps firing into the masses. By consciously combining the elements of legs, steps, blood, people, we produce an impression--of what kind? The spectator does not imagine himself at the Odessa wharf in 1905. But as the soldiers' boots press forward he physically recoils. He tries to get out of the range of the bullets. As the baby carriage of the crazed mother goes over the side of the mole he holds on to his cinema chair. He does not want to fall into the water."

Richard Griffith, Curator of the Museum's Film Library, says: "To Eisenstein, the only film maker to combine the roles of creator and critic on the highest level, we owe more than to any other individual the esthetic theory of the motion picture. His Potemkin and Ten Days that Shook the World still tower above all subsequent film as unscaled peaks of cinematic achievement."

For further information and stills contact Herbert Bronstein, Assistant Publicity Director, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. CI. 5-8900.