

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

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WESTFRONT 1918,

PABST FILM AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

G. W. Pabst's Westfront 1918, (1930), a German sound film about trench warfare during the First World War, will be shown at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, September 3 - 9, daily at 3 and 5:30, and Thursday, September 7, at 8 p.m. Originally scheduled for the week of August 20, showings were postponed because of mechanical projection difficulties.

According to Richard Griffith, Curator of the Museum's Film Library, "This most terrible of war films 'seems experienced rather than staged.' In it the trench warfare of 1918 is depicted as a monotony of terror. The soldiers walk on corpses, they are perpetually showered by the debris of shellfire, their dugouts may collapse on them at any moment under a direct hit. All around them, cutting off any escape, is the certain death of no-man's-land. The vivid details, memorable scenes, and powerful camerawork of this film, though humanly appealing, deliberately culminate in a denial of humanity and of life itself. The present print is visually excellent, but the poor recording of the early sound period makes the German dialogue hard to follow, while the sparse full-screen titles--the method followed before overprinted titles were devised in 1932--accomplish little more than to punctuate episodes or translate an isolated snatch of dialogue."

Further information available from Herbert Bronstein, Associate Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York. CI 5-8900.