

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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SPECIAL POLISH FILM WEEK AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Nine short films made by students at the Polish State Film School will be shown at the Museum of Modern Art, May 6 - 12, daily at 3 and 5:30. The program surveys representative films from first year silent work of the government-subsidized school in Lodz, to a fifth year thesis film. Included are The Umbrella, a silent, surrealist exercise; The Wall of Thrills, motorcyclists performing in a carnival arena; The Sentence, a hospital biopsy performed on a young woman; School Without Blackboards, education for blind children; and Improvisation, an animated cartoon based on Picasso's Three Musicians. Four fiction films, selected from those produced during the final two years of training, are The Game, a Polish treatment of "chicken," the American hot-rod contest; Rondo, a surrealist romp about a frustrated diner in a restaurant; Portrait of a Man with a Medal, a fantasy of death and desire; and Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge, based on Ambrose Bierce's story of a military hanging.

The program was selected by Jerzy Toeplitz, Director of the Polish Film School and President of the International Federation of Film Archives. Mr. Toeplitz, who is in the United States under the auspices of the Ford Foundation, says that "Lodz became the center of Polish film production in 1947, following the war devastation of Warsaw. At present the Polish Film School there is composed of three basic faculties: directing, camera craft and acting. Actors are trained not only for the film but also for future careers in the theatre and television. Independent of these three faculties is also a three year course in film theory and criticism." The films shown at the Museum indicate that the School does not follow a strict aesthetic system, but encourages freedom for individual expression in form and content. All films on the program are technically skillful and highly imaginative. Although thirteen years old, the School has already produced such distinguished film-makers as Andrzej Wajda, Director of Ashes and the Diamond.

Further information available from Herbert Bronstein, Associate Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. CI.5-8900.