

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

No. 94

FOR RELEASE

Wednesday, August 1 1962

The American premiere of the new independent film, The Small Hours, will be held at the Fifty-Fifth Street Playhouse on Monday, August 13, at 8:30 p.m., as a benefit for the Film Preservation Fund of the Museum of Modern Art. The benefit performance was arranged through the courtesy of the Fifty-Fifth Street Playhouse and Mr. Norman Chaitin, author, producer and director of the film.

Mr. Chaitin adapted The Small Hours from his own stage play which was performed several years ago at the Actors Studio. A Greenwich Village apartment, the East River, a midtown bar, a hotel, and the New York City streets are the locales for the events which take place during a period of twelve hours in the existence of a Manhattan advertising executive.

Tickets for this showing are \$5, of which \$3 is a tax deductible contribution to the Fund. Tickets may be ordered by mail through the Museum by check payable to the Museum of Modern Art, or may be purchased on August 13th at the box office of the Fifty-Fifth Street Playhouse, 154 West 55 Street.

According to Richard Griffith, Curator of the Museum's Film Library, "The Small Hours, made outside the commercial film industry, is an example of a continuing trend among independent film-makers to produce low budget films dealing directly with contemporary problems in a spirit of improvisation. Experiments of the past two years have revealed the hand-held camera as a major breakthrough in the realization of this spirit. Now that they are portable enough to be used in this way, the director need no longer stage the action 'at' the camera. The camera instead can invade the action, exploring it for expressive images, often in counterpoint to what is being said or done. The Small Hours is just such a camera fugue, and one which should enthrall all lovers of cinematography. Hand-held cameras have up until now chiefly been used for documentary purposes, but here it sets us down in the middle of a dramatic microcosm of New York. Mr. Chaitin says he learned his trade through constant attendance at film showings at the Museum of Modern Art. If so, we have cause to be proud."

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