

The Museum of Modern Art FILM LIBRARY

Corporation

485 Madison Avenue, New York
February 25, 1937
Telephone PLaza 3-1981

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TO MOTION PICTURE EDITORS
TO CITY EDITORS

Dear Sirs:

The Museum of Modern Art Film Library will give the initial showing of its fifth program of foreign motion pictures Sunday night, March 7, at 8:30 in the auditorium of the American Museum of Natural History, entrance on West 77th Street between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West.

The Press is invited to attend the Sunday night showing or, if more convenient, to come to a Press Preview in Room 502, 125 East 46th Street (Grand Central Palace) at 2:30 Monday afternoon, March first.

Program V, entitled The Film in France: The Advance-Guard, is composed of the following motion pictures:

The Smiling Madame Beudet (1922) Produced by Vandal-Delac-Aubert. Directed by Germaine Dulac. Scenario by Andre Obey from his and Denys Amiel's play. Acquired through the courtesy of Germaine Dulac and The Cinematheque Francaise. Here a psychological screen drama of domestic conflict is presented boldly yet with great sensitiveness. The director, Madame Dulac, has at times used slow motion and trick photography to express the emotional violence beneath the surface of an outwardly calm and commonplace marital existence.

Menilmontant (1924-1925) Produced and directed by Dmitri Kirsanov. Photography by Kirsanov and Léonce Crouan. With Nadia Sibirskaia and Yolande Beaulieu. Acquired through the courtesy of Dmitri Kirsanov. Exceptional emotional force and sincerity emanate from this remarkable amateur film, made by a young Russian émigré in Paris. The story, compressed to its stark essentials--murder, poverty, love, hunger, birth, death--is told by means of poetic imagery and bold realism. The direction and photography, and the acting of Nadia Sibirskaia in the chief role, remain extraordinarily fresh and brilliant in this little-known twelve-year-old film which connoisseurs have ranked among the few masterpieces of the screen.

Ballet Mécanique (1924) Produced and directed by Fernand Léger. Photography by Dudley Murphy. Acquired through the courtesy of Mr. Léger. An abstract film in which the mechanically smiling lips of Kiki, famous French model, reiterated shots of a country woman with bundle on shoulder forever climbing the same flight of stairs, rhythmically photographed saucepan lids and egg beaters, and a number of drawn and painted cubist forms are all treated as geometrical patterns.

For further information, please call me at Circle 7-7470.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Newmoyer
Sarah Newmoyer
Publicity Director