

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53rd Street, New York, N. Y.

Telephone: Circle 7-7470

Cable Address: Modernart

February 29, 1936

TO MOTION PICTURE EDITORS
TO CITY EDITORS

Dear Sirs:

The PRESS VIEW of the third program, D. W. Griffith, given by the Museum of Modern Art Film Library will be held at the DALTON SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, 108 East 89th Street, New York City, TUESDAY, March 3 at 8:30 P.M.

The program will be confined to the work of the great American director, D. W. Griffith, and will consist entirely of the motion picture Intolerance, considered by many his masterpiece. It was completed in 1916, two years after Griffith's Birth of a Nation.

Program notes giving information regarding the production of Intolerance and its place in the history of the cinema will be available, as well as several stills from the picture. Music will accompany the showing of the film.

You are invited to attend or to send a representative. If you are unable to come Tuesday night, you will be welcome to the second showing at the same place and time but on Wednesday night, March 4th. Please use this letter as an admission card.

For further information please call the undersigned at Circle 7-7470.

Sincerely yours,



Sarah Newmeyer
Publicity Director

SN/bs

NOTE: FOR CRITICS OR SPECIAL WRITERS UNABLE TO ATTEND EITHER THE TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY NIGHT SHOWINGS, THE MUSEUM WILL HOLD A SPECIAL PRESS SHOWING AT THREE O'CLOCK TUESDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 3, AT THE DALTON SCHOOL. IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND WILL YOU PLEASE CALL MISS NEWMAYER AT THE MUSEUM, CIRCLE 7-7470.

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 7-7470

FOR RELEASE Saturday morning or Sunday
afternoon, February 29 or March 1, 1936

The Museum of Modern Art Film Library announces the New York showing of its third program of motion pictures on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 3 and 4, at eight-thirty p.m. Because the Museum building at 11 West 53 Street is not large enough to accommodate all who want to see the film programs, arrangements have been made to show them to members of the Museum in the auditorium of the Dalton School, 108 East 89 Street.

The third program will be confined to the work of the great American director, D. W. Griffith, and will consist entirely of his motion picture Intolerance, considered by many to be his master-piece. It was completed in 1916, two years after Griffith's Birth of a Nation. Griffith conceived Intolerance as a mighty sermon against injustice and hypocrisy. It weaves together on that theme four distinct stories in different periods of history: the slums of 1914, sixteenth-century France, Judea's Calvary, and ancient Babylon.

Intolerance was two years in the making, and during the last six months of its filming, Griffith worked eighteen hours a day on it. The sets were tremendous in size, and solidly built. The palace courtyard, where the Feast of Belshazzar was held, was a half-mile in length. To photograph this enormous set, filled with thousands of people, the camera was mounted on a movable sixty-foot tower with an elevator device which raised and lowered the camera as it photographed the scene. Another shot of a big scene in the Babylonian sequence was taken from a balloon, with the camera shooting downward on the huge set.

The cast of Intolerance glitters with names famous in motion picture history. Among the best known players are Mae Marsh, Lillian Gish, Miriam Cooper, Robert Harron, Monte Blue, Eric von Stroheim, Bessie Love, George Walsh, Eugene Pallette, Constance Talmadge, Seena Owen, Ruth St. Denis, Tully Marshall, and

George Fawcett. Minor parts are taken by Alma Rubens, Carmel Myers, Pauline Starke, Mildred Harris Chaplin, Eva Southern, Jewel Carmen, Colleen Moore, Carol Dempster, and Winifred Westover. Several who were Triangle stars at the time played extra roles in the Griffith picture: Douglas Fairbanks, Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree, and De Wolf Hopper. One of Griffith's assistant directors for the picture was W. S. Van Dyke.

Iris Barry, Curator of the Museum of Modern Art Film Library, says in her program notes: "The film Intolerance is of extreme importance in the history of the cinema. . . . All the old and many new technical devices are employed in it - brief, enormous closeups not only of faces but of hands and of objects; the 'eye-opener' focus to introduce vast panoramas; the use of only part of the screen's area for certain shots; camera angles and tracking shots such as are commonly supposed to have been introduced by German producers years later; and rapid cross-cutting the like of which was not seen again until Potemkin. . . . In his direction of the immense crowd scenes, Griffith achieves the impossible, for - despite their profusion and breath-taking scale - the eye is not distracted; it is irresistibly drawn to the one significant detail."

The fourth program of the Film Series will be entitled "The German Influence", and will include F. W. Murnau's Sunrise. This program will be shown by the Museum for its members April 7 and 8. Immediately after the initial showing by the Museum, each program is started on an itinerary which includes museums, colleges and study groups throughout the country.

By application to the Museum of Modern Art Film Library, 485 Madison Avenue, New York City, one or more of the following stills will be sent you for reproduction only:

1. Individual shot of Mae Marsh.
2. Individual shot of Constance Talmadge.
3. Scene showing Robert Harron.
4. Scene showing Margery Wilson and Eugene Pallette.
5. The Feast of Belshazzar.