

# The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

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## RUDOLPH S. JOSEPH

Rudolph S. Joseph has been active in all areas of the performing and visual arts. Now an American citizen, Mr. Joseph was born in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, in 1904. After completing his education, he was hired by Gustave Hartung, one of the great German stage producers, then head of the Theatre in Cologne, as his first assistant. At the age of 20, <sup>Mr.</sup>/Joseph was drawn to the creative activity in Berlin during the 1920's and was active in the production of classic and modern plays, operettas and musicals utilizing the greatest talent in the country. He was responsible for the production of Theodore Dreiser's "The Hand of the Potter," in the only successful run of this forgotten work, and Marcel Pagnol's "Topaze," which Joseph translated from French.

<sup>Mr.</sup> When Hitler came to power, /Joseph left Berlin to join Austrian film director G. W. Pabst in Paris. During this period, <sup>Mr.</sup>/Joseph became involved with writing screenplays for Henry Koster, Curtis Bernhardt and Conrad Veidt, and worked in Italy with Machaty, the creator of "Ecstasy."

Mr. Joseph left for the United States in 1939, and, unable to find work in the film industry, became successful as a California real estate agent. Seymour Nebenzal, producer of "M" and "Mayerling," then asked Joseph to join him as associate producer. Their first film was purchased by Louis B. Mayer and released through Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, followed by "Summer Storm," starring Linda Darnell and George Sanders, and "The First Legion," starring Charles Boyer.

In 1945, after reading Thomas Wolfe's "Of Time and the River," in which the author mentions a play entitled "The Manner House," Joseph began searching for the manuscript of this unknown play. With the help of Maxwell Perkins, the script was found and Joseph had it produced in Germany, first on the radio with Oskar Werner and later on the stage starring Maximilian Schell with outstanding success.

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Mr. Joseph was approached in the early '50s by the Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, California, which was interested in forming a motion picture department, which Joseph established with photographer Rex Fleming. During this time Joseph and Fleming made a series of four color films entitled "Health Problems of the Navajos" for the United States Department of Health, which is the only film footage ever made in the Navajo language and which was extremely beneficial in helping Indians. Mr. Joseph also produced a film titled "Darius Milhaud" for Ralph Swickard Productions. He went to Paris to set the release of the Milhaud film with the French government, and was asked by the U.S.I.A. to tour France at that time to lecture on American documentary films. In 1957 he visited Germany for the first time in 24 years and met Dr. Hohenemse, head of Cultural Affairs for the city of Munich. Dr. Hohenemse discussed the possibility of improving film conditions in the otherwise flourishing cultural life of Munich with Mr. Joseph, who cited the Cinematheque Francaise as an example. So comprehensive were Mr. Joseph's suggestions that he was asked to take on the project, and is now Director of the Film Department of the Photo and Film Museum, which is part of the large and popular Stadt Museum in Munich. A 144-seat theater was built there according to his specifications. There retrospective showings of film classics are continuously being presented, including a group of 60 French films, 40 Italian post-war classics, and, most recently, a series devoted to the work of King Vidor. As director of the Museum's film department, Mr. Joseph conceived the idea of a Sophia Loren photographic exhibition. After consulting with Carlo Ponti, Mr. Joseph selected film stills from Miss Loren's private collection. The exhibition was first presented at the Stadt Museum, creating an international stir, and was later repeated with similar success in Rio de Janeiro.

The Museum of Modern Art showing, "The Career of an Actress: Sophia Loren," incorporates a large number of the photographs shown in Munich. It will be on display through September 5, 1966. Miss Loren will arrive in New York to attend the invitational opening on May 17, from the Cannes Film Festival where she is president of the jury.

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