

The Museum of Modern Art

Please reply to: The Film Library, 485 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Director, John E. Abbott Curator, Iris Barry Telephone PLaza 3-1981 Cable Address: Modernart

March 12, 1937

TO MOTION PICTURE EDITORS
TO CITY EDITORS

Dear Sirs:

The Museum of Modern Art Film Library will give the initial showing of its first supplementary program of Series III, The Film in Germany and in France, Sunday night, March twenty-first, 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 Wednesday afternoon, March seventeenth.

Supplementary Program 3A will consist of the full length feature picture Siegfried, produced in 1923 by Decla-Bioscop (Ufa) under the direction of Fritz Lang who is now directing motion pictures in Hollywood. The photography is by Karl Hoffman and Gunther Rittau, scenic design by Otto Hunte, Erich Kettelhut, and Karl Vollbrecht. The film has been acquired through the courtesy of Ufa.

Siegfried, one of the best-known of German silent films, is a notable example of the studio craftsmanship developed in Germany after the war and later adopted by producers everywhere. Entirely studio-made, its imposing architectural constructions, ingenious lighting and sharp contrasts in black and white earned the picture wide acclaim. The woodland settings with their meadows, trees and brooks, the effects of mist and of sunlight were regarded as triumphs of artifice at the time and, indeed, have hardly been outdone in any studio since, while Siegfried's fight with the dragon and the trick photography generally marked striking innovations in technique.

The scenario for Siegfried was written by Thea von Harbou, and is based on ancient sagas rather than on the Wagnerian operas. The present version has the original German subtitles, and, as accompaniment, a synchronized orchestral score by Gottfried Huppertz which was added to the film upon its reissue recently. The leading roles are played by Paul Richter as Siegfried, Hanna Ralph as Brunhilde, Margarete Schoen as Kriemhild and Theodor Loos as King Gunther.

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

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Newmeyer
Publicity Director

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