

The Museum of Modern Art

West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 245-3200 Cable: Modernart

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THE STAR VEHICLE: THE MAKING OF A MOVIE, an exhibition of approximately 85 photographs made on location in Dahomey during the filming of THE COMEDIANS, will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art from October 31 through December 3. Scenes from the finished film are contrasted with stills showing how they were shot. Other prints are views of the sets created to simulate the original Haitian locale of the Graham Greene story and behind-the-scenes shots of technicians at work. The film, produced and directed by Peter Glenville, stars Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, with Alec Guinness, Peter Ustinov, Paul Ford and Lillian Gish.

"Motion picture production today," Willard Van Dyke, Director of the Museum's Department of Film, states, "is breaking away from traditional methods, both in technique and financing. The director is taking an even greater part in the selection of script, casting, and editing. Some successful films have been made with money lent by friends or by the expenditure of personal resources. Some directors are even their own cameramen.

"The subject of our exhibition, however, is typical of the traditional well-made movie financed by a major company. THE COMEDIANS is a novel by a distinguished author, Graham Greene. The movie follows its structure very closely. Peter Glenville, a director with a reputation for reliability and skill with expensive productions, was chosen to guide it. Such safeguards as a good script in the sure hands of a proven director are required when stars of the magnitude of Taylor and Burton are chosen to play the leading roles. And the investment must further be protected by the choice of the supporting actors. Lillian Gish, Alec Guinness, Peter Ustinov, and Paul Ford are known to all movie-goers and their talents are undeniable.

"A motion picture is the product of many skills, applied through the guiding mind of the director, to the realization of the script."

The exhibition was designed by Kathleen Haven for the Museum's Department of Film and was made possible by the generosity of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. The photographs taken by Robert Bicciochi, Bob Penn and Otto Storch were supplied by Modernage.

Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Linda Gordon, Associate, Public Services, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.