

The Museum of Modern Art

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ORIGINAL FILM VERSION OF "PETER PAN" TO BE SHOWN AT
THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
BETTY BRONSON, THE STAR, WILL APPEAR IN PERSON

The 1925 film version of Sir James Barrie's play "Peter Pan" will be shown Thursday evening, May 15, 8:00 P.M., in the Auditorium of The Museum of Modern Art. The star, Betty Bronson, will appear in person, Willard Van Dyke, Director of the Department of Film announced. William K. Everson, film historian, will introduce her to the audience.

As far as it is known this is the first full-length feature adaptation of the famous Barrie play, and the playwright himself chose Miss Bronson for the title role. She was seventeen years of age at the time.

Missing from both American and foreign archives for many years, "Peter Pan" was recently discovered by James Card, Curator of the George Eastman House. Mr. Card, having conducted an unsuccessful search for the film, accidentally found it in a projection room of the Eastman Theatre in Rochester, it was reported by Variety. The film, stored and forgotten, had once been projected in this remote screening room, where organists were trained to play the musical score that accompanied the film. The print is still in excellent condition and it is believed that Paramount Pictures, the producing company, had donated it to George Eastman, who was the recipient of many such gifts because of his efforts in behalf of the film industry.

Through the courtesy of Eastman House, the Museum's Department of Film is able to present "Peter Pan," and has invited its star for the event. Miss Bronson, now retired from the screen and living in Pasadena, is coming here from California.

Born in Trenton, New Jersey, Betty Bronson prepared for a stage and screen career. She studied Russian ballet under Folkine and at 15 played her first screen role, a bit part in "Anna Ascends," starring Alice Brady.

(more)

Three years later, in "Peter Pan" directed by Herbert Brenon, she became a star and subsequently appeared in "Ben Hur," "The Cat's Pajamas" directed by William Wellman, "Paradise for Two" under Gregory LaCava's direction, with Richard Dix as her leading man. She also starred in "The Singing Fool" made by Lloyd Bacon.

In one of her last films, Miss Bronson appeared opposite Jack Benny in "Medicine Man" made in the early thirties. She has since devoted herself to her family and other interests and occasionally has appeared at the Pasadena Playhouse. She is married to Ludwig Lauerhass, an executive of a Pasadena pharmaceutical house.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Lillian Gerard, Film Coordinator, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.