

The Museum of Modern Art

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"TELL THEM WILLIE BOY IS HERE" AT MUSEUM

A special showing of Abraham Polonsky's film "Tell Them Willie Boy is Here" will be held at 8:00 P.M. Thursday evening, January 22, at The Museum of Modern Art. Mr. Polonsky will be present at the showing and will answer questions from the audience following the film. This is the first picture directed by Polonsky in over twenty years. The last was "Force of Evil," made in 1948, which was called "a small masterpiece" by Bosley Crowther, then film critic of the New York Times. It has since acquired a considerable reputation.

"Tell Them Willie Boy is Here," based upon actual events occurring in California in 1909, concerns Willie Boy, an American Indian who is the object of a manhunt. The chase takes on another dimension when newsmen covering President Taft's speechmaking tour nearby distort the story into reports of an Indian uprising and a major plot to kill the President, led by Willie Boy.

The film, which Roger Greenspun of The New York Times has called "one of the best American movies," works on several levels. It has been praised by many critics for the excellence of its purely cinematic qualities -- the photography, editing, composition, and sense of setting. On the level of its social meaning, Polonsky himself has said, "There are certain analogies with contemporary America," in the area of race relations and other confrontations.

Additional information available from Lillian Gerard, Film Coordinator, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, New York. 10019. (212) 956 - 7296, 7501.