

The Museum of Modern Art

West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

No. 43

FOR RELEASE on or after
April 21, 1970

NEW YORK PREMIERE OF "DILLINGER IS DEAD"

AT MUSEUM

Italian director Marco Ferreri's "Dillinger is Dead" (Dillinger è Morto), official Italian entry at the 1969 Cannes Film Festival, will receive its New York premiere with a special screening Friday, April 24, 8:00 P.M., at The Museum of Modern Art. Mr. Ferreri will be present to discuss the picture after the showing, which has been arranged by Adrienne Mancini, Assistant Curator of Department of Film, in collaboration with the Casa Italiana of Columbia University and the Italian Cultural Institute in New York.

Marco Ferreri, whom "Cahiers du Cinéma" critic Jacques Aumont has called 'one of the most important Italian filmmakers' working today, began his film career in a wine-shop where he was employed and for which he made a few short publicity films. In 1953, he co-founded a film magazine which, though short-lived, included among its contributors De Sica, Visconti, Fellini, and Antonioni. Two years later he was executive producer of "Love in the City," a film in which Fellini, Zavattini, Antonioni and other Italian directors collaborated.

Mr. Ferreri made his first film, "The Apartment" (El pisito) in 1958. This picture received a special mention from the jury at the Locarno Festival. "The Marriage" (El cochecito), made two years later, won the Fipresci Prize at the Venice Film Festival, the first prize at the Punta del Este Festival, and the Prix de l'Humour Noir in Paris. Since then he has completed six feature films and contributed episodes to three others.

"Dillinger is Dead" was completed in 1969. Pier Paolo Pasolini has said of the film, "I love 'Dillinger is Dead,'" and Ferreri himself prefers it to his previous films because it was his first picture made with complete freedom.

(more)

The movie stars Michel Piccoli, recently seen here in "Belle du Jour" and "Topaz," and one of Europe's foremost character actors, who portrays a man disenchanted with his job, home, and wife. As the film progresses, he polishes and reconditions an old revolver which he eventually uses to kill his wife. But the shooting, his subsequent escape to Tahiti and, in fact, all the events of the film may be merely his imaginings while driving home from work. The ambiguity is never resolved.

Marco Ferreri's latest film, "The Seed of Man" (Il Seme dell'Uomo), will be shown in this country for the first time Tuesday, April 28, 5:30 P.M., as part of the Museum's Cineprobe Series. The themes of alienation and regression, which are central to "Dillinger is Dead," recur in "The Seed of Man," but Ferreri's focus has shifted from the problem of a single man to a problem of humanity -- survival in the face of the end of the world. The film, which has English titles, stars Anne Wiazemsky, who played leading roles in "La Chinoise" and "Weekend", and Annie Girardot. The director will again be present to answer questions from the audience.

Tickets for "Dillinger is Dead" are on sale at the Museum for \$2.00, \$1.50 for students.

Additional information available from Mark Segal, Assistant, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. (212) 956 - 7296, 7501.