

THE FILM PRESERVATION PROGRAM OF
THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART TO BENEFIT FROM
THE WORLD PREMIERE OF "SAVAGES"

The World Premiere of James Ivory's new film "Savages" will be given to aid the Film Preservation Program of The Museum of Modern Art. The premiere, for which a special benefit committee, headed by Mrs. Walter Reade, Jr. and Mrs. Daniel Rose, has been organized, will take place Sunday evening at 8:00 p.m., April 30th, at the Baronet Theatre. The tickets are priced at \$25 and will include a champagne supper at the Woolworth Building, to which guests will be transported in vintage cars of the 30s and in chartered buses. (The Woolworth Building was chosen because its lobby is in the same flamboyant decor as the setting of the film.)

Tickets to the World Premiere of "Savages" may be obtained by writing to the Special Museum Film Benefit Committee, Room 809, 667 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10021 or by phoning 593-1454.

"Savages" is the first American film of the producer-director team of Ismail Merchant and James Ivory. Their previous films, all made in India, have been "The Householder" (1963), the award winning "Shakespeare Wallah" (1966), "The Guru" (1969), and "Bombay Talkie" (1970).

In "Savages" a tribe of primitive people live in an unspecified forest in an unspecified period. They are led to a tremendous abandoned mansion by a mysterious croquet ball, enter it, and take up living there. The house begins to civilize them and in time the tribesmen become sophisticated ladies and gentlemen, and as their individual personalities emerge, so do their pasts and futures. Eventually, the force that swept them into the house begins to pull them away from it. Things begin to fall apart and by stages the savages begin to revert to what they had been originally. By dawn, for their whole rise and fall

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has taken only a day, the tribesmen, in a burst of renewed energy, return to the woods during a manic croquet game in which they drive their balls into the trees. The house is deserted once more and the sun comes up.

"Savages" was written by George Swift Trow, a staff writer on the New Yorker magazine, and Michael O' Donoghue, a writer for the National Lampoon. It was photographed by the British cameraman Walter Lassally and Joe Raposo has composed the music. The film is being released by Angelika Films.

The Museum's Film Preservation Program conserves films of every decade since the 1890s and continues to acquire and preserve pictures for future generations. The Special Committee for the Film Preservation Benefit includes: Mrs. Walter Reade, Jr. and Mrs. Daniel Rose, co-chairmen, Miss Jonelle Allen, Mrs. M.W. Berns, Mrs. John Kenneth Galbraith, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Gladstein, Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Gunsberg, Mr. Ashton Hawkins, Mr. Kenneth J. Lane, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lauder, Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Newhouse, Mr. George Plimpton, Mr. Walter Reade, Jr., Mrs. Joseph J.M. Saleh, Mrs. Marjorie Schell, Mr. and Mrs. Dudley V. Schoales, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Strelsin, Mr. and Mrs. David Swope, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Traub, Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Vanderlip, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Willard Van Dyke.

Additional information available from Lillian Gerard, Film Coordinator, and Mark Segal, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7296.