

The Museum of Modern Art

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

NO. 10

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HUNGARIAN CINEMA FEATURED AT MUSEUM

Hungarian films will be featured at The Museum of Modern Art from February 22 to March 6. The Department of Film, in collaboration with the American Film Institute and Hungarofilm, is sponsoring this event in an effort to introduce Americans to current Hungarian cinema. Several of the films are first features; and all of them were selected by Michael Webb of the A.F.I., who visited Hungary to make a study of its films over the past decade.

The program, to be circulated to many other American cities by the A.F.I., was launched at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. It will also be shown at the A.F.I. Theater at Kennedy Center, Washington, DC, before completing its nine-city American tour.

"Sindbad," written and directed by Zoltán Huszárik, an artist known for his drawings, is distinguished by its use of color. "It is the visual equivalent of a Baudelaire poem," says Webb, who singles out its dramatic cutting "from shadow to sunlight, from a glowing red interior to a naked girl in the snow." It is the first feature by this director.

"The Whistling Cobblestone" is a first feature by 24 year old Gyula Gazdag. It is described as "a candid exposé of the credibility gap between old guard revolutionaries and the children of the revolution." Students perform themselves instead of actors.

Still another first film comes from Sándor Sára, titled "The Upthrown Stone." Sára was formerly a director of photography on several important Hungarian films. "'The Upthrown Stone' illustrates the impact of political oppression in the late 1940s on an idealistic boy," according to programmer Webb.

Also on the program is "Love Emilia!," a comic-tragic drama set in a girls' school and directed by Pál Sándor; "Grimaces," evoking childhood fantasies and realities, co-directed and co-written by Ferenc Kardos and János Rózsa; "The Confrontation," a "Godardesque" work by Miklós Jancsó, the best known Hungarian director; and "The

(more)

Last Goal," by Zoltán Fábri, one of the more experienced Hungarian "auteurs," whose film is said to work on two levels, as a tragicomedy about a prison camp and as a morality play. Finally, "The Valley," by a known director Tamás Rényi, is called "a powerful stylized allegory, whose stately rhythms, superb compositions and taut economy recall Greek tragedy."

"Love Film" completes the program. Written and directed by István Szabó in 1971, it is naturally about a boy and girl whose romance began in Budapest in the fifties, before the uprising which separated them, and who are re-united in a world quite changed from what they once knew.

The program, accompanied by experimental shorts and cartoons, follows:

STUDENT LOVE. 1968. By Gyorgy Szomjas. 14 min.

SINDBAD. 1972. By Zoltán Huszárík. English titles. 98 min.

Thursday, February 22, 5:30 and 8:00

ELEGY. 1965. By Zoltán Huszárík. 21 min.

LOVE EMILIA! 1970. By Pál Sándor. English titles. 80 min.

Friday, February 23, 2:00 and Saturday, February 24, 5:30

GRIMACES. 1965. By Ferenc Kardos and János Rózsa. English titles. 77 min.

Saturday, February 24, 3:00 and Sunday, February 25, 5:30

THE CONFRONTATION. 1971. By Miklós Jancsó. English titles. 86 min.

Monday, February 26, 2:00 and 5:30

THE LONG DISTANCE RUNNER. 1969. By Gyula Gazdag. 13 min.

THE WHISTLING COBBLESTONE. 1972. By Gyula Gazdag. English titles. 96 min.

Thursday, March 1, 8:00; "The Whistling Cobblestone" will be shown alone on Thursday, March 1, at 5:30.

THE LAST GOAL. 1961. By Zoltán Fábri. English titles. 129 min.

Friday, March 2, 2:00 and Saturday, March 3, 5:30

ANGELUS. By Zoltán Huszárík. ca. 15 min.

THE VALLEY. By Tamás Rényi. English titles. 79 min.

Saturday, March 3, 3:00 and Sunday, March 4, 5:30

LOVE FILM. 1971. By István Szabó. English titles. 140 min.

Monday, March 5 at 2:00 and 5:30

THE UPTHROWN STONE. 1969. By Sándor Sára. English titles. 92 min.

Tuesday, March 6, 5:30

Additional information available from Lillian Gerard, Special Projects 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, -7295.