

DANISH FILMS DEBUT AT MUSEUM

Recently made Danish films, unknown in this country, will be presented by The Museum of Modern Art in a ten-day homage to the cinema of Denmark. Eight features, several of them first film efforts, will be shown from April 12 to 23, with a selection of shorts on Wednesdays at noon. The entire program is being presented in cooperation with the Danish Film Institute.

"The Case of the Missing Clerk," directed by Gert Frydholm, is a satirical comedy that attacks compliance in an automated age. "The Tar-Dealer," produced, written and directed by Jens Ravn, deals with a so-called "traveller in dreams," a man who swindles women he offers to marry. The fraudulent hero, based on a real-life charlatan, is another example of bourgeois decadence. Both of these films were made in 1971.

"Lone," filmed a year earlier (1970) by Franz Ernst, and written by the director and Charlotte Strandgaard, is a stark, fictionalized case history of a 16-year-old girl seeking to escape from emotional dilemmas, resulting finally in a brutal illegal abortion. It is the director's first feature.

Also on the program is "Give God a Chance on Sundays" (1970), directed by Henrik Stangerup, a novelist and noted film critic; "Dear Irene," directed by Braad Thomsen, who wrote the original screenplay with Mette Knudsen, who is, like Thomsen, a film critic; and "The Ballad of Carl Henning," by the writer-director team of man and wife, Lene and Sven Gronlykke, whose picture is a portrait of a young man from the marshlands of the provinces.

No Danish program would be complete without the classic film of the sixties, "Hunger," from Knut Hamsun's novel, about a poverty-stricken writer with Per Oscarsson in a performance Penelope Gilliatt of The New Yorker calls "phenomenal." Miss Gilliatt writes: "The experience of the film is the experience of being this character, and there

(more)

is no flagging anywhere in that-- only fury, antic courage, a rather beckettlike stoic humor, and a suppressed wild exhilaration that is equal to the grip of writing, or love. It is quite a film." Directed by Henning Carlsen, "Hunger" is said to capture Hamsun's own hunger of the soul and body.

Henning Carlsen's just-completed feature "Oh, To Be on the Bandwagon" will also have its U.S. premiere during the series. Set in a bar frequented by blue collar workers, it describes a situation analogous to O'Neill's "The Iceman Cometh."

Accompanying these Danish films, sent here for this occasion, there will be several distinguished short works, chosen by Margareta Akermark, Associate Director of the Department of Film. They include "Danish Village Church," made in 1947 by Carl-Theodor Dreyer; "A City Called Copenhagen" (1960); "The World's Smallest Performers," dealing with the now-defunct Danish flea circus. Asta Nielsen appears in an interview directed by herself, and illustrated with excerpts from many of her films; "Knud" tells of the explorer Knud Rasmussen.

The feature films will be shown twice on different days, as the following schedule indicates; all films are in Danish with English subtitles.

The Case of the Missing Clerk. 1971. By Gert Frydholm. 106 min.

Thursday, April 12, 5:30 and Saturday, April 14, 5:30

The Tar-Dealer. 1971. By Jens Ravn. 102 min.

Thursday, April 12, 8:00 and Saturday, April 14, 3:00

Hunger. 1966. By Henning Carlsen. 112 min.

Friday, April 13, 2:00 and Sunday, April 15, 5:30

Lone. 1970. By Franz Ernst. 101 min.

Monday, April 16, 2:00 and Thursday, April 19, 8:00

Oh, To Be on the Bandwagon. 1972. By Henning Carlsen. 97 min.

Monday, April 16, 5:30 and Monday, April 23, 2:00

Dear Irene. 1971. By Braad Thomsen. 100 min.

Thursday, April 19, 5:30 and Saturday, April 21, 5:30

Give God a Chance on Sundays. 1970. By Henrik Stangerup. 94 min.

Friday, April 20, 2:00 and Monday, April 23, 5:30

The Ballad of Carl-Henning. 1969. By Lene and Sven Gronlykke. 104 min.

Saturday, April 21, 3:00 and Sunday, April 22, 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.

April 1973