

# The Museum of Modern Art

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MUSEUM WILL PAY TRIBUTE TO WARNER BROS. ON STUDIO'S FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY

The Museum of Modern Art will observe the fiftieth year of Warner Bros. by presenting a four-and-a-half month retrospective of pictures from that company, it was announced by Willard Van Dyke, Director of the Museum's Department of Film.

The Warner Bros. retrospective will begin July 4 with "Yankee Doodle Dandy," starring James Cagney in the role of George M. Cohan, the famous showman and composer, eulogized in this 1942 musical biography filled with the nostalgia of World War I and the years preceding the Second World War. Michael Curtiz directed "Yankee Doodle Dandy," as well as several other notable pictures in this series: "Captain Blood," starring Errol Flynn; "Casablanca," featuring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman; and "Four Daughters," in which John Garfield made his debut. All these pictures introduced popular trends in Hollywood.

The five decades of Warner Bros. will be marked by an unprecedented number of films shown in one of the longest retrospectives of its kind sponsored by the Department of Film of the Museum. The feature pictures, numbering approximately 200, were chosen by Adrienne Mancina, Associate Curator of Film. They cover the twenties and the beginning of the sound years, when Warner Bros. introduced Al Jolson in "The Jazz Singer"; a sampling of the thirties with its themes of social awareness as found in "They Won't Forget"; the more sentimental era of the forties, of which "Mildred Pierce" is an example; the fifties, characterized by "Rebel Without a Cause," the start of a malaise that grew into the more current films of the sixties like "Bonnie and Clyde" and such contemporary pictures as "A Clockwork Orange" and "Super Fly."

Among the outstanding American directors represented in the Warners show are Mervyn Le Roy, Howard Hawks, Raoul Walsh, John Huston, Edmund Goulding, William Wellman, Frank Capra, William Wyler, Elia Kazan, George Cukor, William Dieterle, Arthur Penn, Stanley Kubrick, and others.

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Typically popular as well as prestigious Warner Bros. films to be shown are "Angels With Dirty Faces," "The Patent Leather Kid," "Lilac Time," "Five Star Final," "The Green Pastures," and "The Life of Emile Zola." Consideration was given, however, to lesser-known works of major directors, many of which are also included in this retrospective. According to Ms. Mancia the program was designed to give an idea of the variety and kind of films released by a major studio. Ms. Mancia pointed out that while many of these films were commercial movies they often reflected and sometimes affected the social, political and cultural concerns of millions of people in this country and around the world.

In addition to feature films, the series will include a huge variety of shorts to be shown weekly, Wednesdays-at-Noon, featuring names as familiar in their time as Ruth Etting, Ethel Waters, Sammy Davis, Jr. and Kate Smith. There will also be Looney Tunes, Merrie Melodies and other animation; trailers of the period will be on view.

Warner Bros. Pictures was incorporated on April 4, 1923, and it is the fiftieth anniversary of that event that is being observed this year. The Warner brothers, however, had been in the film business as early as 1906 and, in 1917, had produced their first hit, "My Four Years in Germany." The latter, based on a story written by Ambassador James W. Gerard, is included in the forthcoming retrospective.

NOTE TO CRITICS AND EDITORS: A complete list of films, with chronology, directors and stars, will be furnished on request, in addition to stills from various films in this series.

We will make every effort to screen films in advance for those interested in covering this retrospective and re-evaluating individual pictures.

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