

The Museum of Modern Art

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NO. 68

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EARLY JOHN FORD FILMS AT MUSEUM

Twenty-four early films by one of America's greatest directors, John Ford, will be shown from August 21 through September 28 at The Museum of Modern Art. Dating from 1917 to 1937, the pictures, some of which have not been seen publicly since their original release, have been selected from the Museum's film archive by Adrienne Mancia, Associate Curator, and Larry Kardish, Assistant Curator, Department of Film.

John Ford directed more than 130 feature films between 1917 and 1966. He won four Academy Awards for best direction and was honored four times by the New York Film Critics. His credits include "The Iron Horse," "The Lost Patrol," "The Informer," "Stagecoach," "The Grapes of Wrath," "The Long Voyage Home," "My Darling Clementine," "How Green Was My Valley," "Rio Grande," "Mogambo," "Mister Roberts," and "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valence." Among the actors and actresses in "John Ford's Stock Company" were Maureen O'Hara, Henry Fonda, Jane Darwell, Ward Bond, George O'Brien, Anna Lee, Mae Marsh, and a young stunt man named Michael Morrison whom Ford later renamed John Wayne.

The Museum's program focuses on Ford's early films, particularly those made for William Fox, which the Museum has preserved by arrangement with 20th Century-Fox. These include his first feature, "Straight Shooting" (1917) and his first Fox picture, "Just Pals" (1920), both films signed "Jack Ford." Also to be shown are "Cameo Kirby" (1923), the first film signed "John Ford"; "Four Sons" (1928), a story of mother love told against the background of World War I; "Up the River" (1930), with Humphrey Bogart and Spencer Tracy at the beginning of their careers.

Later, better-known films on the program are "The Informer," his first Oscar winner; "Wee Willie Winkie," with Shirley Temple; and three Will Rogers pictures, "Steamboat Round the Bend"; "Judge Priest"; and "Doctor Bull." Thus

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the series traces Ford's development from a 23-year-old just off D. W. Griffith's set (he rode with the Klan in "The Birth of a Nation") to an Academy Award winning talent.

John Ford died on August 31, 1973, five months after receiving the American Film Institute's first Life Achievement Award. He was 79.

The Department of Film wishes to thank Marvin Zeman for his work on the program notes for the Ford series. The schedule follows; silent films are indicated with an asterisk.

Thursday, August 21

- 5:30 JUST PALS.* 1920. With Buck Jones. 75 min.
8:00 STRAIGHT SHOOTING.* 1917. With Harry Carey, Molly Malone, Hoot Gibson. 75 min.

Friday, August 22

- 2:00 STRAIGHT SHOOTING (see Thursday, August 21, 8:00)

Saturday, August 23

- 3:00 JUST PALS (see Thursday, August 21, 5:30)
5:30 CAMEO KIRBY.* 1923. With John Gilbert, Gertrude Olmstead, Alan Hale. 80 min.

Sunday, August 24

- 5:30 THREE BAD MEN.* 1926. With George O'Brien, Olive Borden, J. Farrell MacDonald. 90 min.

Wednesday, August 27

- 2:00 CAMEO KIRBY (see Saturday, August 23, 5:30)

Thursday, August 28

- 5:30 THREE BAD MEN (see Sunday, August 24, 5:30)
8:00 FOUR SONS. 1928. With Margaret Mann, James Hall, Charles Morton. 100 min.

Friday, August 29

- 2:00 THE IRON HORSE.* 1924. With George O'Brien, Madge Bellamy. 115 min.

Saturday, August 30

- 3:00 KENTUCKY PRIDE.* 1925. With Henry B. Walthall, J. Farrell MacDonald, Gertrude Astor. 70 min.
5:30 LIGHTNIN.* 1924. With Madge Bellamy, Jay Hunt, J. Farrell MacDonald. 100 min.

Sunday, August 31

- 5:30 THE IRON HORSE (see Friday, August 29, 2:00)

Monday, September 1

- 2:00 THE SHAMROCK HANDICAP.* 1926. With Janet Gaynor, Leslie Fenton. 70 min.
5:30 HANGMAN'S HOUSE.* 1928. With Victor McLaglen, June Collyer. 75 min.

Tuesday, September 2

- 5:30 THE SHAMROCK HANDICAP (see Monday, September 1, 2:00)

Wednesday, September 3

- 2:00 KENTUCKY PRIDE (see Saturday, August 30, 3:00)

Thursday, September 4

- 5:30 LIGHTNIN (see Saturday, August 30, 5:30)
8:00 THE BLACK WATCH. 1929. With Victor McLaglen, Myrna Loy. 92 min.

Friday, September 5

- 2:00 HANGMAN'S HOUSE (see Monday, September 1, 5:30)

Saturday, September 6

- 3:00 FOUR SONS (see Thursday, August 28, 8:00)
5:30 RILEY THE COP. 1928. With J. Farrell MacDonald, Louise Fazenda. 67 min.

Sunday, September 7

- 5:30 UP THE RIVER. 1930. With Humphrey Bogart, Spencer Tracy, Claire Luce. 90 min.

Monday, September 8

2:00 RILEY THE COP (see Saturday, September 6, 5:30)
 5:30 BORN RECKLESS. 1930. With Edmund Lowe, Warren Hymer. 80 min.

Tuesday, September 9

5:30 UP THE RIVER (See Sunday, September 7, 5:30)

Wednesday, September 10

2:00 THE BLACK WATCH (see Thursday, September 4, 8:00)

Thursday, September 11

5:30 SEAS BENEATH. 1931. With George O'Brien, Marion Lessing. 90 min.
 8:00 PILGRIMAGE. 1933. With Henrietta Grosman, Heather Angel, Norman Foster.
 95 min.

Friday, September 12

2:00 BORN RECKLESS (see Monday, September 8, 5:30)

Saturday, September 13

3:00 THE BRAT. 1931. With Sally O'Neil, Alan Dinehart, Frank Albertson. 70 min.
 5:30 SEAS BENEATH. (see Thursday, September 11, 5:30)

Sunday, September 14

5:30 PILGRIMAGE (see Thursday, September 11, 8:00)

Monday, September 15

2:00 FLESH. 1932. With Wallace Beery, Karen Morley, Ricardo Cortez. 95 min.
 5:30 THE BRAT (see Saturday, September 13, 3:00)

Tuesday, September 16

5:30 FLESH (see Monday, September 15, 2:00)

Wednesday, September 17

2:00 DOCTOR BULL. 1933. With Will Rogers, Marian Nixon, Louise Dresser. 79 min.

Friday, September 19

2:00 JUDGE PRIEST. 1934. With Will Rogers, Henry B. Walthall, Tom Brown, Anita
 Louise. 80 min.

Saturday, September 20

3:00 JUDGE PRIEST (see Friday, September 19, 2:00)
 5:30 DOCTOR BULL (see Wednesday, September 17, 2:00)

Sunday, September 21

5:30 STEAMBOAT ROUND THE BEND. 1935. With Will Rogers, Anne Shirley. 80 min.

Monday, September 22

2:00 THE INFORMER. 1935. With Victor McLaglen, Heather Angel, Preston Foster.
 91 min.

5:30 THE LOST PATROL. 1934. With Victor McLaglen, Boris Karloff. 65 min.

Tuesday, September 23

5:30 STEAMBOAT ROUND THE BEND (see Sunday, September 21, 5:30)

Wednesday, September 24

2:00 THE LOST PATROL (see Monday, September 22, 5:30)

Thursday, September 25

5:30 THE INFORMER (see Monday, September 22, 2:00)

Friday, September 26

2:00 THE PRISONER OF SHARK ISLAND. 1934. With Warner Baxter, Gloria
 Stuart, Harry Carey. 95 min.

Saturday, September 27

5:30 WEE WILLIE WINKIE. 1937. With Shirley Temple, Victor McLaglen. 100 min.

Sunday, September 28

12:30 and

3:00 WEE WILLIE WINKIE (see Saturday, September 27, 5:30)

5:30 THE PRISONER OF SHARK ISLAND (see Friday, September 26, 2:00)

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 Additional information available from Lillian Gerard, Special Projects Coordinator,
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