

## THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PROGRAM OF MAGIC FILMS

## AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Beginning Monday, December 18th, and continuing through Saturday, January 6, 1940, the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, will offer at eleven o'clock every morning, except Sunday, a film program of particular interest to children. Admission to the Museum for children under sixteen years of age is ten cents at all times. There is no extra charge for film programs.

The children's holiday program will be composed of a selection of films made by the French pioneer of the movies, Georges Méliès, who was a prestidigitator on the stage in Paris before the invention of the motion picture. Story, elaborate scenery, trick camera effects and fantastic costumes are all by Méliès, who brought a Jules Verne imagination and the technical ability of a professional magician and illusionist to the screen.

When Méliès saw his first motion picture in 1895 he realized immediately the vast possibilities for illusion and magic trickery offered by this new mechanical marvel. From 1896 until 1914 he produced, wrote, directed and acted in innumerable motion pictures chiefly of a fantastic nature. In 1902, when most films were only three minutes long, Méliès made his famous picture A Trip To The Moon, which runs for a full ten minutes. It is a gay and charming turn-of-the-century screen frolic with plump dancers in thick white tights, long-bearded scientists and acrobatic moon-men worked into a dramatic sequence enlivened by ingenious scenic effects.

The entire program has a running time of approximately an hour and includes the following five films, the very names of which suggest their fantastic nature:

- 1899 THE CONJURER
- 1902 A TRIP TO THE MOON
- 1905 THE PALACE OF THE ARABIAN NIGHTS
- 1903 THE DOCTOR'S SECRET
- 1912 CONQUEST OF THE POLE