

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORTY YEARS OF AMERICAN FILM COMEDY FROM FLORA FINCH AND
JOHN BUNNY TO CHAPLIN, FIELDS, BENCHLEY AND THE MARX
BROTHERS TO BE SHOWN AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

That movies are the proper study of mankind has been established at the Museum of Modern Art, where eight comprehensive series and four smaller groups of the outstanding films through which the great popular art of the cinema has evolved since 1895, have already been shown to Museum visitors.

The Museum now announces a new series of fifteen programs in the art of the motion picture under the general title: Forty Years of American Film Comedy, Part I. Beginning Thursday, August 1, the series will be presented daily at 4 P.M. and on Sundays at 2 P.M. and 4 P.M. in the Museum's auditorium at 11 West 53 Street. Instruction will thus be provided from the screen by Professors Mack Sennett, Frank Capra, W. C. Fields, Harpo and Groucho Marx, Robert Benchley and Charlie Chaplin in a new appraisal of screen comedy reviewed in the light of history.

"It is very evident," states Iris Barry, Curator of the Museum's Film Library, "that the great farce-comedies, as well as the cowboy and gangster films, rank among this country's most original contributions to the screen. We are grateful indeed to the film industry for cooperating with the Museum in providing this unique opportunity for tracing screen comedy to its sources in this group of classics now restored to view for the amateurs of the twentieth century's liveliest art. Most of these films are superbly irrational; they defy alike the laws of gravity and of probability. But all of them accidentally reflect the changing tastes, fads, fashions and attitudes of their time. In this respect these comedies are valuable to sociologists as well as to the innumerable students of this vital art of the film."

The fifteen new programs which begin with Frank Capra's six-

year-old It Happened One Night and include the same director's first feature length picture, The Strong Man (1926), will be shown in reverse chronological order through four decades back to the days of John Bunny and Flora Finch. The early work of Chaplin will be shown in three special programs made up from nine shorts produced between 1914 and 1916.

The comedy series will include examples of the almost mythical films of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Drew as well as of John Bunny and Flora Finch. These have been seen only as fragments, if at all, for many years past. Here also will be shown the best work of Harold Lloyd and of Buster Keaton, brief talkies with W. C. Fields and Robert Benchley, satirical farce with Clara Kimball Young, the sheer madness of the Marx brothers, a rollicking Douglas Fairbanks' comedy not included in the Museum's recent revival of the great actor's features and, of course, a group of the famous Keystone films with Mack Sennett and his troupe of grotesque comedians not omitting, naturally, a generous ration of bathing beauties and Keystone cops.

"These comedies are being presented," said Miss Barry, "not because they are old or quaint but because they are excellent and important. Their pace and their basically comic situations are as fresh and effective now as when they were made. We consider them eminently worthy of museum preservation and have prepared new prints of all films in the series. They will be given in their entirety--save in rare cases where the original negatives no longer exist."

The series, beginning Thursday, August 1, will continue through September 30. The programs will be shown as follows:

The Art of the Motion Picture

Series IX: FORTY YEARS OF AMERICAN FILM COMEDY, Part I

Aug. 1, 16, 31, Sept. 15, 30	IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT, 1934, directed by Frank Capra, with Claudette Colbert and Clark Gable (Columbia Pictures)
Aug. 2, 17, Sept. 1, 16	DUCK SOUP, 1933, directed by Leo McCarey, with Groucho, Harpo, Chico and Zeppo Marx (Paramount Pictures)
	THE BARBER SHOP, 1933, directed by Arthur Ripley, with W. C. Fields (Paramount Pictures)

- Aug. 3, 18, Sept. 2, 17 SEX LIFE OF THE POLYP, 1928, with Robert Benchley (Twentieth Century-Fox Films)
BLONDE CRAZY, 1931, directed by Roy del Ruth, with James Cagney and Joan Blondell (Warner Bros.)
- Aug. 4, 19, Sept. 3, 18 THE GENERAL, 1927, directed by and featuring Buster Keaton (Harvard University Film Foundation)
- Aug. 5, 20, Sept. 4, 19 WEDDING BILLS, 1927, directed by Erle Kenton, with Raymond Griffith (Harvard University Film Foundation)
- Aug. 6, 21, Sept. 5, 20 THE STRONG MAN, 1926, directed by Frank Capra, with Harry Langdon (Harvard University Film Foundation)
THE PROFESSIONAL PATIENT, 1917, with Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Drew (Warner Bros.)
- Aug. 7, 22, Sept. 6, 21 THE FRESHMAN, 1925, directed by Sam Taylor and Fred Newmeyer, with Harold Lloyd (Mr. Harold Lloyd)
HIGH AND DIZZY, 1920, with Harold Lloyd and Mildred Davis (Mr. Harold Lloyd)
- Aug. 8, 23, Sept. 7, 22 GRANDMA'S BOY, 1922, directed by Fred Newmeyer, with Harold Lloyd (Mr. Harold Lloyd)
SHERLOCK JR., directed by and featuring Buster Keaton (Loew's)
- Aug. 9, 24, Sept. 8, 23 DOUBLING FOR ROMEO, 1921, directed by Clarence Badger, with Will Rogers and Raymond Hatton (Loew's)
GOODNESS GRACIOUS, 1914, with Clara Kimball Young and Sidney Drew (Warner Bros.)
- Aug. 10, 25, Sept. 9, 24 HIS MAJESTY THE AMERICAN, 1919, directed by Joseph Henabery, with Douglas Fairbanks (Mr. Douglas Fairbanks)
- Aug. 11, 26, Sept. 10, 25 FIVE COMEDIES BY MACK SENNETT:
COMRADES (1910)
MABEL'S DRAMATIC CAREER (1913)
THE SURF GIRL (1916)
HIS BREAD AND BUTTER (1916)
ASTRAY FROM THE STEERAGE (1920)
- Aug. 12, 27, Sept. 11, 26 MICKEY, 1918, with Mabel Normand, directed by Richard Jones for the Mack Sennett Studios
STENOGRAPHER WANTED, c.1910, with Flora Finch and John Bunny (Warner Bros.)
- Aug. 13, 28, Sept. 12, 27 CHARLIE CHAPLIN: FIVE KEYSTONE COMEDIES, 1914:
MAKING A LIVING THE KNOCK-OUT
HIS NEW PROFESSION THE ROUNDERS
GETTING ACQUAINTED
- Aug. 14, 29, Sept. 13, 28 CHARLIE CHAPLIN: FOUR ESSANAY COMEDIES, 1915:
THE TRAMP THE BANK
A WOMAN POLICE
- Aug. 15, 30, Sept. 14, 29 CHARLIE CHAPLIN: FOUR MUTUAL COMEDIES, 1916: (RKO Radio Pictures)
THE FIREMAN THE VAGABOND
ONE A.M. THE RINK

NOTE: Names appearing in parentheses acknowledge through whose courtesy and cooperation the Film Library secured the films.