

The Museum of Modern Art

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SERIES OF THOMAS H. INCE FILMS BEGINS AT MoMA OCTOBER 3

Producer Thomas H. Ince (1880-1924), who contributed to the establishment of both the American studio system and the realistic appearance of its feature films, is the subject of an exhibition which opens at The Museum of Modern Art on Friday, October 3. THOMAS H. INCE: AMERICAN FILMMAKER comprises forty silent films in seventeen programs.

Ince's esthetic vision and the economic structure he created gave his films a consistent look. The films have an uncomplicated surface embellished by natural landscapes and vigorous characterizations. The simple plot lines are conveyed by a lean, efficient style. In order to achieve and maintain creative control of the films he envisioned, Ince employed production managers to represent him in all stages of production.

Among the films in the exhibition is a Biograph short in which Ince acts, Frank Powell's His New Lid (1910). Also included are shorts Ince directed in 1911-12 for Imp in Cuba and New York, such as The Lighthouse Keeper and 'Tween Two Loves, both with Mary Pickford, as well as shorts he directed for the New York Motion Picture Company's Bison 101 Unit in California. The remainder are shorts and features selected from those he produced from 1912 until his untimely death in 1924. These include films such as Reginald Barker's The Coward (1915) that Ince produced from 1915-17 for Triangle, the company he founded with D.W. Griffith and Mack Sennett.

Ince was known primarily for his westerns and his pacifist spectacle, Raymond B. West's Civilization (1916). Among the westerns is William S. Hart's and Charles Swickard's Hell's Hinges (1916), which is being screened here with a tinted final

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sequence of a huge conflagration. He also produced popular urban melodramas, including Fred Niblo's anti-Bolshevik Dangerous Hours (1920) and John Griffith Wray's Anna Christie (1923), with Blanche Sweet. In addition Ince created hybrids of urban and rural melodrama, such as Victor Schertzinger's The Clodhopper (1917), about a small town maladroitness whose shortcomings become assets in the city.

The exhibition continues through October 31 (complete schedule attached) in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2. An introductory essay and program notes by film historian Steven Higgins will be available at the screenings. Stuart Odermann will provide original piano accompaniment for one of the two screenings of each program.

The films in the series are drawn from the collections of the Museum's Department of Film, the Library of Congress, the American Film Institute, the UCLA Film, Television, and Radio Archives, the George Eastman House, and William K. Everson.

THOMAS H. INCE, AMERICAN FILMMAKER is programmed by Steven Higgins and organized for the Museum by Laurence Kardish, curator, Department of Film.

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For further press information and photographic materials, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9752.

THOMAS H. INCE, AMERICAN FILMMAKER

October 3-31, 1986

The Museum of Modern Art
The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2

Schedule

** denotes original piano accompaniment

Friday, October 3

- 3:00 p.m.: INCE AS ACTOR- His New Lid. 1910. Frank Powell.
INCE AS DIRECTOR, 1911-1912- The Lighthouse Keeper. With Mary Pickford; The Forged Dispatch. With J. Farrell MacDonald; 'Tween Two Loves. With Mary Pickford; With Francis Ford: War on the Plains (fragment); The Indian Massacre; Blazing the Trail; The Post Telegrapher (fragment)
- 6:30 p.m.: INCE AS DIRECTOR, 1912- Starring Francis Ford: The Lieutenant's Last Fight; Custer's Last Fight; The Invaders; The Struggle. With Elmer Morrow; The Empty Water Keg. With Anna Little; Vengeance of Fate. With Ethel Grandin. ca. 110 min.

Saturday, October 4

- ** 2:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (1)/Short films, 1912-1913- The Army Surgeon (fragment). Francis Ford. With Harold Lockwood; The Favorite Son. Francis Ford. With Charles Ray; The Drummer of the 8th. Jay Hunt. With Cyril Gottlieb; A Child of War. Raymond B. West (?) With Mildred Harris; Silent Heroes. Jay Hunt. With Estelle Adams. ca. 90 min.
- ** 5:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (2)- The Golden Trail. 1915. Richard Stanton. With Stanton; The Bargain. 1914. Reginald Barker. With William S. Hart, J. Frank Burke, Clara Williams. ca. 90 min.

Sunday, October 5

- ** 2:30 p.m.: INCE AS DIRECTOR, 1912. See Friday, October 3, 6:30.
- ** 5:30 p.m.: INCE AS ACTOR/INCE AS DIRECTOR, 1911-1912. See Friday, October 3, 3:00.

Monday, October 6

- 3:00 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (2). See Saturday, October 4, 5:30.
- 6:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (1)/Short films, 1912-1913. See Saturday, October 4, 2:30.

Tuesday, October 7

- 3:00 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (3)- The Last of the Line. 1914. Jay Hunt. With Sessue Hayakawa; The Wrath of the Gods. 1914. Reginald Barker. With Sessue Hayakawa, Frank Borzage, Tsuru Aoki. ca. 100 min.
- 6:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (4)- The Cup of Life. 1915. Raymond B. West. With Bessie Barriscale, Enid Markey. ca. 65 min.

Friday, October 10

- 3:00 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (5)- A Crook's Sweetheart (fragment). 1914. Scott Sidney; The Italian. 1915. Reginald Barker. With George Beeban, Clara Williams. ca. 100 min.
- 6:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (6)- The Coward. 1915. Triangle. Reginald Barker. With Charles Ray, Frank Keenan. ca. 65 min.

Saturday, October 11

- ** 2:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (4)- The Cup of Life. See Tuesday, October 7, 6:30.
- ** 5:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (3)- The Last of the Line/The Wrath of the Gods. See Tuesday, October 7, 3:00.

Sunday, October 12

- ** 2:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (6)- The Coward. See Friday, October 10, 6:30.
- ** 5:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (5)- A Crook's Sweetheart/The Italian. See Friday, October 10, 3:00.

Monday, October 13

- 2:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (7)- The Iced Bullet. 1917. Triangle. Reginald Barker. With William Desmond, Robert McKim. ca. 65 min.

Monday, October 13 (continued)

5:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (8)- The Clodhopper. 1917. Triangle. Victor Schertzinger. With Charles Ray, Margery Wilson. ca. 65 min.

Tuesday, October 14

3:00 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (9)- The Taking of Luke McVane. 1915. William S. Hart. With Hart; Hell's Hinges. 1916. Triangle. Charles Swickard, William S. Hart. With Hart, Clara Williams. Tinted print. ca. 100 min.

** 6:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (9)- The Taking of Luke McVane/Hell's Hinges. See Tuesday, October 14, 3:00.

Friday, October 17

3:00 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (10)- Flare-Up Sal. 1918. R. William Neill. With Dorothy Dalton, William Conklin. ca. 65 min.

6:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (11)- Dangerous Hours. 1920. Fred Niblo. With Barbara Castleton, Lloyd Hughes. ca. 90 min.

Saturday, October 18

** 2:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (8)- The Clodhopper. See Monday, October 13, 5:30.

** 5:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (7)- The Iced Bullet. See Monday, October 13, 2:30.

Sunday, October 19

** 2:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (11)- Dangerous Hours. See Friday, October 17, 6:30.

** 5:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (10)- Flare-Up Sal. See Friday, October 17, 3:00.

Monday, October 20

3:00 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (12)- Hail the Woman. 1921. John Griffith Wray. With Florence Vidor, Madge Bellamy, Lloyd Hughes. ca. 105 min.

Tuesday, October 21

3:00 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (13)- Bell Boy 13. 1923. William A. Seiter. With Douglas MacLean, Margaret Loomis. ca. 105 min.

Friday, October 24

3:00 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (14)- Beau Revel. 1921. John Griffith Wray. With Lewis Stone, Florence Vidor. ca. 65 min.

6:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (15)- Anna Christie. 1923. John Griffith Wray. With Blanche Sweet, William Russel, George F. Marion. ca. 105 min.

Saturday, October 25

** 2:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (13)- Bell Boy 13. See Tuesday, October 21, 3:00.

** 5:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (12)- Hail the Woman. See Monday, October 20, 3:00.

Sunday, October 26

** 2:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (15)- Anna Christie. See Friday, October 24, 6:30.

** 5:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (14)- Beau Revel. See Friday, October 24, 3:00.

Tuesday, October 28

3:00 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (16)- Civilization. 1916. Raymond B. West, others. With Herschell Mayall, Howard Hickman, Enid Markey. ca. 100 min.

** 6:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (16)- Civilization. See Tuesday, October 28, 3:00.

Friday, October 31

3:00 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (17)- The Crab. 1917. Triangle. Walter Edwards. With Frank Keenan, Thelma Salter. ca. 65 min.

** 6:30 p.m.: INCE AS PRODUCER (17)- The Crab. See Friday, October 31, 3:00.