

The Museum of Modern Art

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SAM SPIEGEL TRIBUTE AND FILM STILLS EXHIBITION MARK MAJOR COLUMBIA GIFT TO MoMA

Columbia Pictures, a unit of The Coca-Cola Company, is donating its eleven Academy Award-winning films for Best Picture to The Museum of Modern Art. In honor of this donation, the Museum will pay tribute to Sam Spiegel, who died earlier this year, on Thursday, October 30, with public screenings of the three Best Picture films he produced at Columbia. Elia Kazan's On the Waterfront (1954) will be shown at 12:30 p.m., David Lean's The Bridge on the River Kwai (1957) at 2:30 p.m., and Lean's Lawrence of Arabia (1962) at 6:00 p.m.

An exhibition of forty-two film stills enlargements spanning six decades of Columbia films is now on display in the gallery outside The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1. Highlighting treasures as diverse as Gilda (1946) and Gandhi (1982), the exhibition has been organized by Mary Corliss, assistant curator in the Museum's Department of Film. The stills were selected from the Museum's Film Stills Archive, which recently acquired 50,000 additional Columbia stills from a private collection.

The Columbia gift to the Museum has been announced by Francis T. Vincent, Jr., president of the Entertainment Business Sector of The Coca-Cola Company, and David Puttnam, chairman and chief executive officer of Columbia Pictures. The gift ensures that the 35mm prints and trailers of the Academy Award-winning films, as well as such supporting materials as screenplays, production notes, and promotional posters, will be preserved for future generations. Mary Lea Bandy, director of the Museum's Department of Film, states, "This is the first gift to the Museum of a selection of Academy Award-winning films from a major studio and is a major addition of Columbia titles to our Film Archive. We are

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eager to strengthen our holdings of recent feature films. Building our collection of Columbia titles is definitely a priority."

The gift reflects two major periods in the studio's history. The first, from the twenties through the fifties, was the era of mogul Harry Cohn and such production chiefs as Sidney Buchman and Virginia Van Upp. One of the most significant directors from this period is Frank Capra, whose It Happened One Night (1934) and You Can't Take It With You (1938) are included in the gift, as is Robert Rossen's All the King's Men (1949) and Fred Zinnemann's From Here to Eternity (1953). The second era, from the fifties through the eighties, is the period of such independent producers as Ray Stark, the BBS group of Bert Schneider, Bob Rafelson, and Steve Blauner, and especially Sam Spiegel. Besides the three Spiegel films in the Museum's tribute, this era is represented in the Columbia gift by such films as Zinnemann's A Man for All Seasons (1966), Carol Reed's Oliver! (1968), Robert Benton's Kramer vs. Kramer (1979), and Richard Attenborough's Gandhi. A third era begins in 1986 with the appointment of David Puttnam to the studio's top position.

The relationship between Columbia Pictures and The Museum of Modern Art has been particularly strong over the years. In 1969 the Museum held a major retrospective of films from Columbia, and for the past two years, Columbia has generously contributed to preservation programs at the Museum and other archives in the United States.

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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.