

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release

AMERICAN MOVIEMAKERS SERIES BEGINS THIS FALL AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

May 31, 1989.....The Museum of Modern Art announced today a major film retrospective and restoration program, AMERICAN MOVIEMAKERS, to begin in November 1989. Sponsored by AT&T, the two-fold exhibition celebrates the development of talkies through the Vitaphone process in "The Dawn of Sound" (November 17 - December 3, 1989) and one of the great Hollywood careers in "Directed by Vincente Minnelli" (December 15, 1989 - January 28, 1990).

In announcing the series, Richard E. Oldenburg, director, The Museum of Modern Art, stated, "AMERICAN MOVIEMAKERS exemplifies two important aspects of the Museum's film program: a major--and long overdue--retrospective of the work of one of the great American filmmakers and an exhibition representing an important transitional period in motion picture history that includes vital restoration work. AT&T is the first corporation to undertake sponsorship of such an ambitious film project at The Museum of Modern Art. In addition to its exhibition support, AT&T has made possible the restoration of original films through the use of Vitaphone discs, ensuring that this work will be preserved for future study and exhibition."

AMERICAN MOVIEMAKERS includes publications for each exhibition, wall exhibitions of film stills and posters, and symposia. A special interactive display in the Museum's Education Center, created by AT&T, affords visitors the opportunity to study Vitaphone history and related technical information.

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"For more than a century, AT&T has been in the business of exploring science and technology to transform the way people communicate," said Marilyn Laurie, senior vice president, public relations, AT&T. "The exhibition celebrates sixty years of sound's universal use by the motion picture industry. AT&T is pleased to have played a leading role in the development of sound for the movies, and we are proud to participate today in helping to rediscover and preserve its rich legacy."

The Dawn of Sound

This is the first major exhibition of films that use the patented Vitaphone sound process, developed in the 1920s by AT&T through its Western Electric and Bell Labs units. "The Dawn of Sound" presents over a dozen newly restored features and selected shorts, made between 1926 and 1931. These films were synchronized with Vitaphone disc recordings, creating one of the earliest sound-film systems. Warner Bros., the first studio to work with Western Electric on the Vitaphone process, changed motion picture history with Don Juan (1926) and The Jazz Singer (1927), included in the exhibition with other Warner Bros. and MGM films.

"The Dawn of Sound" represents the culmination of a collaborative restoration project by The Museum of Modern Art, the UCLA Film and Television Archive, the George Eastman House, and the Library of Congress. The UCLA Archive is transferring onto film soundtracks the surviving Vitaphone discs, which have been donated by the Turner Entertainment Co. The archives gratefully acknowledge the cooperation of Turner Entertainment Co., Warner Bros., the Burbank Studios, and YCM Laboratories on the project.

"The Dawn of Sound" has been organized by Mary Lea Bandy, director, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art. Following its premiere in New York, the exhibition will tour to institutions in such cities as Berkeley, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C., among others.

Directed by Vincente Minnelli

During the course of his singular directorial career, Vincente Minnelli reconciled his strong allegiance to the Hollywood studio tradition with his own idiosyncratic vision. He was under contract to MGM for twenty-five years, mastering the genres of the musical, the melodrama, and the sophisticated comedy. "Directed by Vincente Minnelli" is a complete retrospective, presenting the thirty-four feature films he made between 1943 and 1976.

Minnelli came to Hollywood from a career on Broadway as a set designer and director of musicals. His signature film style developed out of his inventive use of the Technicolor palette, lushly stylized sets, and fluid camera movement. Although widely known as a master of musicals, including Meet Me in St. Louis (1944), An American in Paris (1951), The Band Wagon (1953), and Gigi (1958), for which he received a best director Oscar, his versatility with other genres has often been ignored. Minnelli also directed a series of successful comedies, including Father of the Bride (1950) and Designing Woman (1957); and melodramas, such as Lust for Life (1956), The Bad and The Beautiful (1953), and Madame Bovary (1949).

As part of this program, the Museum, in collaboration with George Eastman House and Turner Entertainment Co., is undertaking the preservation of Meet Me in St. Louis from the original Technicolor materials. Turner Entertainment Co. has additionally cooperated graciously with every aspect of the retrospective.

"Directed by Vincente Minnelli" has been organized by Stephen Harvey, associate curator, Department of Film, who is the author of the major monograph of the same title which accompanies the exhibition. The publication represents the first comprehensive examination of the director's career and includes critical essays on each of his feature films.

After its New York showing, the exhibition will travel to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. In spring 1990 AT&T will sponsor an event commemorating Vincente Minnelli at The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

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DIRECTED BY VINCENTE MINNELLI

December 15, 1989 - January 28, 1990

All films directed by Vincente Minnelli, produced by MGM Studios, and Courtesy of Turner Entertainment, Co., except where otherwise noted.

Cabin in the Sky, 1943. With Ethel Waters, Eddie "Rochester" Anderson, Lena Horne, Louis Armstrong. 96 minutes.

I Dood It, 1943. With Red Skelton, Eleanor Powell, Lena Horne. 101 minutes.

Meet Me in St. Louis, 1944. With Judy Garland, Margaret O'Brien, Mary Astor, Lucille Bremer. 113 minutes.

The Clock, 1945. With Judy Garland, Robert Walker, James Gleason. 90 minutes.

Yolanda and the Thief, 1945. With Fred Astaire, Lucille Bremer, Frank Morgan, Mildred Natwick. 110 minutes

Ziegfeld Follies, 1944, released 1946. With Fred Astaire, Judy Garland, Gene Kelly, Lucille Bremer. 110 minutes

Undercurrent, 1946. With Katharine Hepburn, Robert Taylor, Robert Mitchum. 116 minutes

The Pirate, 1948. With Judy Garland, Gene Kelly, Walter Slezak, Gladys Cooper. 102 minutes

Madame Bovary, 1949. With Jennifer Jones, James Mason, Van Heflin, Louis Jourdan. 115 minutes

Father of the Bride, 1950. With Spencer Tracy, Joan Bennett, Elizabeth Taylor. 93 minutes

Father's Little Dividend, 1951. With Spencer Tracy, Joan Bennett, Elizabeth Taylor. 82 minutes

An American in Paris, 1951. With Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron, Oscar Levant, Nina Foch, Georges Guetary. 113 minutes

The Bad and the Beautiful, 1953. With Lana Turner, Kirk Douglas,
Walter Pidgeon, Dick Powell, Gloria Grahame, Gilbert Roland. 118 minutes

The Story of Three Loves, 1953. "Mademoiselle" sequence. With
Ethel Barrymore, Leslie Caron, Farley Granger, Ricky Nelson,
Zsa Zsa Gabor. 122 minutes

The Band Wagon, 1953. With Fred Astaire, Cyd Charisse, Jack Buchanan,
Nanette Fabray. 112 minutes

The Long, Long Trailer, 1954. With Lucille Ball, Desi Arnaz,
Marjorie Main. 96 minutes

Brigadoon, 1954. With Gene Kelly, Van Johnson, Cyd Charisse. 108 minutes

The Cobweb, 1955. With Richard Widmark, Lauren Bacall, Charles Boyer,
Gloria Grahame, Lillian Gish, John Kerr, Susan Strasberg, Oscar Levant.
124 minutes

Kismet, 1955. With Howard Keel, Ann Blyth, Dolores Gray, Vic Damone.
113 minutes

Lust for Life, 1956. With Kirk Douglas, Anthony Quinn, James Donald,
Pamela Brown. 122 minutes.

Tea and Sympathy, 1956. With Deborah Kerr, John Kerr. 122 minutes.

Designing Woman, 1957. With Gregory Peck, Lauren Bacall, Dolores Gray,
Jack Cole. 118 minutes.

Gigi, 1958. With Leslie Caron, Maurice Chevalier, Louis Jourdan,
Hermione Gingold, Eva Gabor. 116 minutes

The Reluctant Debutante, 1958. With Rex Harrison, Kay Kendall, John Saxon,
Sandra Dee, Angela Lansbury. 94 minutes

Some Came Running, 1958. With Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin,
Shirley MacLaine, Martha Hyer, Arthur Kennedy. 134 minutes

Home from the Hill, 1960. With Robert Mitchum, Eleanor Parker,
George Peppard, George Hamilton. 150 minutes

Bells Are Ringing, 1960. With Judy Holliday, Dean Martin, Fred Clark,
Jean Stapleton, Eddie Foy. 126 minutes

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, 1962. With Glenn Ford, Ingrid Thulin,
Charles Boyer, Lee J. Cobb, Paul Henried. 153 minutes

Two Weeks in Another Town, 1962. With Kirk Douglas, Edward G. Robinson,
Cyd Charisse, George Hamilton, Claire Trevor. 100 minutes

The Courtship of Eddie's Father, 1964. With Glenn Ford, Ronny Howard,
Shirley Jones, Dina Merrill, Stella Stevens. 117 minutes

Goodbye, Charlie, 1964. Twentieth Century Fox. With Tony Curtis,
Debby Reynolds, Pat Boone, Walter Matthau. 117 minutes

The Sandpiper, 1965. With Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton,
Eva Marie Saint, Charles Bronson. 115 minutes

On A Clear Day You Can See Forever, 1970. Paramount. With
Barbra Streisand, Yves Montand, Bob Newhart, Jack Nicholson.
123 minutes

A Matter of Time, 1976. American International Pictures. Courtesy
Orion Pictures. With Liza Minnelli, Ingrid Bergman, Charles Boyer.
99 minutes

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THE DAWN OF SOUND

November 17 - December 3, 1989

Vitaphone Features

Don Juan, 1926. Alan Crosland. With John Barrymore, Mary Astor. Warner Brothers.

Old San Francisco, 1927. Alan Crosland. With Dolores Costello, Warner Oland. Warner Brothers.

The First Auto, 1927. Roy Del Ruth. With Barney Oldfield, Patsy Ruth Miller. Warner Brothers.

The Jazz Singer, 1927. Alan Crosland. With Al Jolson, May MacAvoy, Warner Oland. Warner Brothers.

The Lights of New York, 1928. Bryan Fox. With Helene Costello, Cullen Landis, Eugene Pallette. Warner Brothers.

White Shadows in the South Seas, 1928. W.S. Van Dyke. With Monte Blue, Raquel Torres, Robert Anderson. Cosmopolitan Productions.

A Woman of Affairs, 1928. Clarence Brown. With Greta Garbo, John Gilbert, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Lewis Stone. MGM.

Noah's Ark, 1928. Michael Curtiz. With Dolores Costello, George O'Brien, Noah Beery. Warner Brothers.

The Divine Lady, 1929. Frank Lloyd. First National.

Wild Orchids, 1929. Sidney Franklin. With Greta Garbo, Lewis Stone, Nils Asther. MGM.

The Kiss, 1929. Jacques Feyder. With Greta Garbo, Conrad Nagel. MGM.

Broadway Melody, 1929. Harry Beaumont. With Anita Page, Bessie Love, Charles King. MGM.

Under A Texas Moon, 1930. Michael Curtiz. With Frank Fay, Raquel Torres, Myrna Loy. Warner Brothers.

The Dawn Patrol, 1930. Howard Hawks. With Richard Barthelmess, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Neil Hamilton. Warner Brothers.

Little Caesar, 1930. Mervyn LeRoy. With Edward G. Robinson, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. First National.

Viennese Nights, 1931. Alan Crosland. With Alexander Gray, Vivienne Segal, Bert Roach, Walter Pidgeon, Jean Hersholt, Bela Lugosi. 2-color Technicolor. Warner Brothers.

Original Vitaphone Program

Presented at the Warners' Theatre, New York, Friday, August 6, 1926, 8:30 p.m.

Honorable Will H. Hays welcomes Vitaphone in an address.

Overture "Tannhauser" by Richard Wagner. Played by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mischa Elman, concert violinist, plays "Humoresque" by Dvorak and "Gavotte" by Gossec.

Roy Smeck plays "In His Pastimes," popular solo on Hawaiian guitar and ukulele.

Marion Talley sings "Caro Nome" from Rigoletto.

Efrem Zimbalist, violinist, and Harold Bauer, pianist, play "Theme and Variations From the Kreutzer Sonata" by Beethoven.

Giovanni Martinelli, tenor, sings "Vesti la Giubba" from I Pagliacci by Leoncavallo.

Anna Case sings "La Fiesta," soprano solo, assisted by the Cansinos, Spanish dancers, and the Metropolitan Opera Chorus. Accompanied by the Vitaphone Symphony Orchestra, Herman Heller, conductor.

Vitaphone Shorts

All films restored by UCLA and directed by Sam Warner, Herman Heller, and Murray Roth and produced by The Vitaphone Corporation.

Between the Acts at the Opera, 1927. With Willie and Eugene Howard.

Behind The Lines, 1926. With Elsie Janis.

Twinkle, Twinkle, 1927. With Joe E. Brown.

Idle Chatter, 1929. With Lou Holtz.

The Hard Guy, 1930. With Spencer Tracy.

Faint Heart, 1929. With Bert Lahr.

Lambchops, 1929. With George Burns, Gracie Allen.

Crimes Square, 1930. With Pat O'Brien.

The Office Scandal, 1930. With Edgar Bergen.

Gigolo Racket, 1931. With Helen Morgan.

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