

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
March 1990

COSTA-GAVRAS: A RETROSPECTIVE

April 13 - 24, 1990

A complete retrospective of twelve feature films by Costa-Gavras, the Greek-born French filmmaker, opens at The Museum of Modern Art on April 13, 1990. Both thought provoking and entertaining, Costa-Gavras's suspenseful mysteries deal with compelling social issues and are often based on actual political incidents. His stories involve the motivations and misuses of power and often explore the concept of trust in personal and public relationships. His films frequently star such popular actors as Fanny Ardant, Jill Clayburgh, Jessica Lange, Jack Lemmon, Yves Montand (who stars in six of the films), Simone Signoret, Sissy Spacek, and Debra Winger. Opening with Z (1969), one of his best-known works, COSTA GAVRAS: A RETROSPECTIVE continues through April 24.

New prints of Costa-Gavras's early French films have been made available for this retrospective. These include his first film, The Sleeping Car Murders (1965), a thriller about the hunt for a murderer on an overnight train; the American premiere of the original version of One Man Too Many/Shock Troops (1967), a story of resistance fighters who free a group of political prisoners from a Nazi jail; and Family Business (1986), a drama about the transformation of a family crime ring into the local affiliate of an international syndicate. Also featured are Z (1969), an investigation into the murder of a politician; State of Siege (1972), a fictionalized version of the 1970 kidnapping of an American diplomat in Uruguay; and Special Section

-more-

(1975), an account of four men who are ceremoniously tried for the murder of a German officer during the occupation of Paris in 1941. The director's American works, Music Box (1989), Betrayed (1988), Hanna K (1983), and Missing (1982), are also presented.

Costa-Gavras was born Konstantin Gavras in Greece in 1933. (He later abbreviated his name to Costa and added the hyphen to "create confusion.") His father, a Soviet immigrant, was a resistance fighter with the National Liberation Front during the Nazi occupation of Greece and was thereafter suspected of being a communist. Because of this, Costa-Gavras was not permitted to attend the university in Greece, to obtain a Greek driver's license, or to emigrate to the United States. He moved to France to study literature at the Sorbonne, graduating in 1954. In 1956 he became a French citizen and entered the prestigious French film school IDHEC, where he studied production and direction. He graduated in 1958 and worked as a second assistant director to noted filmmakers such as Yves Allèget and René Clair. He directed his first feature film in 1965. Costa-Gavras married his wife, producer Michèle Ray, in 1967. Between 1982 and 1987, he served as president of the Cinémathèque Française.

COSTA-GAVRAS: A RETROSPECTIVE has been organized by Laurence Kardish, curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art, and is presented in association with Catherine Verret-Vimont, director, French Film Office/Unifrance Film USA. The exhibition is supported by a grant from Caral and Joseph Leboworth.

* * *

No. 30

For further information and film stills please contact Sarah Eaton, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.

COSTA-GAVRAS: A RETROSPECTIVE

Exhibition Schedule

All films directed by Costa-Gavras.

Friday, April 13

- 2:30 p.m. The Sleeping Car Murders (Compartiment tueurs). 1965.
With Simone Signoret, Yves Montand, Michel Piccoli. 90 min.
- 6:00 p.m. Z. 1969.
With Yves Montand, Jean-Louis Trintignant, Jacques Perrin.
128 min.

Saturday, April 14

- 2:00 p.m. Special Section (Section spéciale). 1975.
With Michel Lonsdale, Heinz Bennent, Michel Galabru. 110 min.
- 5:00 p.m. State of Siege (Etat de siège). 1973.
With Yves Montand, Renato Salvatori, O.E. Hasse. 120 min.

Sunday, April 15

- 2:00 p.m. Z.
See Friday, April 13.
- 5:00 p.m. The Sleeping Car Murders (Compartiment tueurs).
See Friday, April 13.

Monday, April 16

- 2:30 p.m. State of Siege (Etat de siège).
See Saturday, April 14.
- 6:00 p.m. Special Section (Section spéciale).
See Saturday, April 14.

Tuesday, April 17

- 2:30 p.m. The Confession (L'Aveu). 1970.
With Yves Montand, Simone Signoret. 138 min.
- 6:00 p.m. One Man Too Many/Shock Troops (Un Homme de trop). 1967.
With Jean-Claude Brialy, Bruno Cremer, Jacques Perrin. 110 min.

Thursday, April 19

- 2:30 p.m. Missing. 1982.
With Jack Lemmon, Sissy Spacek, John Shea. 122 min.
- 6:00 p.m. Family Business (Conseil de famille). 1986.
With Johnny Hallyday, Fanny Ardant, Guy Marchand. 98 min.

Friday, April 20

- 2:30 p.m. Music Box. 1989.
With Jessica Lange, Armin Mueller-Stahl, Frederic Forrest. 123 min.
- 6:00 p.m. The Confession (L'Aveu).
See Tuesday, April 17.

Saturday, April 21

- 2:00 p.m. Hanna K. 1983.
With Jill Clayburgh, Jeanne Yanne, Gabriel Byrne. 108 min.
- 5:00 p.m. Missing.
See Thursday, April 19.

Sunday, April 22

- 2:00 p.m. One Man Too Many/Shock Troops (Un Homme de trop).
See Tuesday, April 17.
- 5:00 p.m. Clair de femme. 1979.
With Yves Montand, Romy Schneider, Lila Kedrova. 103 min.

Monday, April 23

- 2:30 p.m. Hanna K.
See Saturday, April 21.
- 6:00 p.m. Betrayed. 1988.
With Debra Winger, Tom Berenger, John Heard. 127 min.

Tuesday, April 24

- 2:30 p.m. Family Business (Conseil de famille).
See Thursday, April 19.
- 6:00 p.m. Music Box.
See Friday, April 20.