

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
November 1992

MICHAEL CURTIZ: FROM HUNGARY TO HOLLYWOOD

November 27, 1992 - January 23, 1993

A survey of more than fifty films by Michael Curtiz (1888-1962), one of cinema's most prolific directors from the studio era, opens on November 27, 1992, at The Museum of Modern Art. As Warner Bros. house director in the 1930s and 1940s, Curtiz symbolizes the crispness and energy that distinguished the Warners' style. On view through January 23, 1993, **MICHAEL CURTIZ: FROM HUNGARY TO HOLLYWOOD** explores the consistent quality and versatility of the filmmaker's work.

The Hungarian-born Curtiz mastered virtually all genres and, during his twenty-seven-year career at Warner Bros., made every type of film from westerns and musicals to social dramas and comedies. A strong director of actors, he made stars of such disparate types as Errol Flynn, John Garfield, and Doris Day, and earned an Academy Award and a renewed career for Joan Crawford in *Mildred Pierce* (1945). Many of his films were popular critical and financial successes.

Curtiz possessed an acute narrative sense, displayed in such remarkable films included in the exhibition as *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938), with Flynn and Olivia de Havilland; *Casablanca* (1942), for which Curtiz received an Academy Award for Best Director; *Yankee Doodle Dandy* (1942), the musical which won James Cagney an Academy Award; *Mildred Pierce*, the *film noir* portrait of an imperfect American family; *Young Man with a Horn* (1950), starring Kirk

- more -

Douglas as an obsessed jazz trumpeter and inspired by Bix Beiderbecke's life; and *The Breaking Point* (1950), based on Ernest Hemingway's *To Have and Have Not*. His early successes -- *Cabin in the Cotton* (1932), a melodrama about sharecroppers, and *The Mystery of the Wax Museum* (1933), an early all-color horror film -- are also included in the exhibition.

MICHAEL CURTIZ: FROM HUNGARY TO HOLLYWOOD also features silent films Curtiz made early in his career in Europe, such as the lavish spectacles *Sodom and Gomorrah* (1922) and *Moon of Israel* (1924), and *Noah's Ark* (1929), a modern day take on the biblical story. He is often credited with directing Hungary's first feature film, *The Last Bohemian* (1912).

With a distinctive personal style, Curtiz was his own most colorful creation. He was born in Budapest in 1888 and became an actor-manager in Hungary and toured Europe as an actor before directing films in Hungary and Austria. He studied filmmaking at Denmark's Nordisk Studios from 1912 to 1914 and served in the Hungarian infantry the next year. After 1918 he worked in the Swedish, French, and German film industries.

Curtiz was summoned to Hollywood by Jack L. Warner in 1926, at the end of the silent era, and became involved with all the innovations of sound in the late 1920s and color after 1930. Dubbed "Crazy Mike" by his Warner colleagues, Curtiz lived up to his own image of a what a big-time director was like -- from his flamboyant dress and quicksilver temper to the malapropisms that rivaled those of Samuel Goldwyn.

After leaving Warners in the early 1950s, Curtiz remained productive making films for Fox, Paramount, and other studios. His later films, such as the Elvis Presley musical *King Creole* and the intimate western *The Proud Rebel*

(both 1958), are on the same level as his early work. He died in 1962 while completing the John Wayne western, *The Comancheros*.

MICHAEL CURTIZ: FROM HUNGARY TO HOLLYWOOD was organized by Stephen Harvey, associate curator, Department of Film.

* * *

No. 68

For further information or film stills, contact Barbara Marshall, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.

The Museum of Modern Art

MICHAEL CURTIZ: FROM HUNGARY TO HOLLYWOOD

November 27, 1991 - January 23, 1993

Exhibition Schedule

All films directed by Michael Curtiz

Friday, November 27

- 2:30 p.m. *The Adventures of Robin Hood*. 1938. Codirected by William Keighley. With Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland, and Basil Rathbone. 102 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *Young Man with a Horn*. 1950. With Kirk Douglas, Lauren Bacall, and Doris Day. 112 min.

Saturday, November 28

- 2:00 p.m. *My Dream is Yours*. 1949. With Doris Day, Jack Carson, and Adolphe Menjou. 101 min.
- 5:00 p.m. *I'll See You in my Dreams*. 1951. With Doris Day, Danny Thomas, and Frank Lovejoy. 110 min.

Sunday, November 29

- 2:00 p.m. *The Adventures of Robin Hood*. See November 27 at 2:30.
- 5:00 p.m. *Young Man with a Horn*. See November 27 at 6:00.

Monday, November 30

- 2:30 p.m. *I'll See You in My Dreams*. See November 28 at 5:00.
- 6:00 p.m. *My Dream is Yours*. See November 28 at 2:00.

Tuesday, December 1

- 2:30 p.m. Two Austrian Silent Films.
Wege des Schreckens.* 1921. With Lucy Doraine and Max Dervient. App. 55 min.
The Road to Happiness. (*Der goldene Schmetterling*). * 1926. With Lili Damita and Nils Asther. App. 70 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *Sodom und Gomorrah*. (*Die Legende von Sünde und Strafe*). * 1922-1923. App. 140 min.

Thursday, December 3

- 2:30 p.m. *Moon of Israel*. (*Die Sklavenkönigin*). * 1924. App. 90 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *Fiaker Nr. 13*. * 1926. With Lili Damita and Harry Liedtke. App. 75 min.

Friday, December 4

- 2:30 p.m. *Fiaker Nr. 13*. See December 3 at 6:00.
- 6:00 p.m. Two Austrian Silent Films. See December 1 at 2:30.

Saturday, December 5

- 2:00 p.m. *Sodom und Gomorrah*. See December 1 at 6:00.
- 5:00 p.m. *Moon of Israel*. See December 3 at 2:30.

- more -

Sunday, December 6

- 2:00 p.m. *Noah's Ark*. 1929. With Dolores Costello and George O'Brien.
110 min.
- 5:00 p.m. *The Third Degree*.* 1927. With Jason Robards and Louise Dresser.
85 min.

Monday, December 7

- 2:30 p.m. *The Third Degree*.* See December 6 at 5:00.
- 6:00 p.m. *River's End*. 1931. With Charles Bickford and Evalyn Knapp.
75 min.

Tuesday, December 8

- 2:30 p.m. *River's End*. See December 7 at 6:00.
- 6:00 p.m. *Noah's Ark*. See December 6 at 2:00.

Thursday, December 10

- 2:30 p.m. *Strange Love of Molly Louvain*. 1932. With Lee Tracy and Ann Dvorak.
70 min.
- 6:00 p.m. *God's Gift to Women*. 1931. With Joan Blondell. 71 min.
Woman from Monte Carlo. 1932. With Lil Dagover and Walter Huston.
65 min.

Friday, December 11

- 2:30 p.m. *God's Gift to Women/Woman from Monte Carlo*. See December 10 at 6:00.
- 6:00 p.m. *Strange Love of Molly Louvain*. See December 10 at 2:30.

Saturday, December 12

- 2:00 p.m. *The Mystery of the Wax Museum*. 1933. With Lionel Atwill and Fay Wray. 73 min.
- 5:00 p.m. *Cabin in the Cotton*. 1932. With Richard Barthelmess and Bette Davis. 79 min.

Sunday, December 13

- 2:00 p.m. *20,000 Years in Sing Sing*. 1933. With Spencer Tracy and Bette Davis. 77 min.
- 5:00 p.m. *Goodbye Again*. 1933. With Warren William and Joan Blondell.
65 min.

Monday, December 14

- 2:30 p.m. *Cabin in the Cotton*. See December 12 at 5:00.
- 6:00 p.m. *20,000 Years in Sing Sing*. See December 13 at 2:00.

Tuesday, December 15

- 2:30 p.m. *The Mystery of the Wax Museum*. See December 12 at 2:00.
- 6:00 p.m. *The Keyhole*. 1933. With Kay Francis and George Brent. 66 min.
Private Detective 62. 1933. With William Powell and Margaret Lindsay. 67 min.

Thursday, December 17

- 2:30 p.m. *The Keyhole/Private Detective 62*. See December 15 at 6:00.
- 6:00 p.m. *Black Fury*. 1935. With Paul Muni and Karen Morley. 92 min.

Friday, December 18

2:30 p.m. *Goodbye Again*. See December 13 at 5:00.

6:00 p.m. *Front Page Woman*. 1935. With Bette Davis and George Brent. 82 min.

Saturday, December 19

2:00 p.m. *Black Fury*. See December 17 at 6:00.

5:00 p.m. *Stolen Holiday*. 1936. With Kay Francis and Claude Rains. 84 min.

Sunday, December 20

2:00 p.m. *Captain Blood*. 1935. With Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland.
119 min.

5:00 p.m. *The Walking Dead*. 1936. With Boris Karloff and Marguerite Churchill. 66 min.

Monday, December 21

2:30 p.m. *Front Page Woman*. See December 18 at 6:00.

6:00 p.m. *Captain Blood*. See December 20 at 2:30.

Tuesday, December 22

2:30 p.m. *The Walking Dead*. See December 20 at 5:00.

6:00 p.m. *Stolen Holiday*. See December 19 at 5:00.

Thursday, December 24

2:30 p.m. *Mad Genius*. 1931. With Lionel Barrymore and Marian Marsh. 81 min.

Saturday, December 26

2:00 p.m. *Kid Galahad*. 1937. With Edward G. Robinson, Bette Davis, and Humphrey Bogart. 101 min.

5:00 p.m. *Mad Genius*. See December 24 at 2:30.

Sunday, December 27

2:00 p.m. *Four Daughters*. 1938. With Claude Rains and John Garfield.
90 min.

5:00 p.m. *Four Wives*. 1939. With Claude Rains and Jeffrey Lynn. 110 min.

Monday, December 28

2:30 p.m. *The Sea Wolf*. 1941. With Edward G. Robinson, Ida Lupino, and John Garfield. 90 min.

6:00 p.m. *Kid Galahad*. See December 26 at 2:00.

Tuesday, December 29

2:30 p.m. *Four Wives*. See December 27 at 5:00.

6:00 p.m. *Four Daughters*. See December 27 at 2:30.

Thursday, December 31

2:30 p.m. *Casablanca*. 1942. With Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman.
102 min.

Friday, January 1

2:00 p.m. *The Sea Hawk*. 1940. With Errol Flynn, Brenda Marshall, and Claude Rains. 127 min.

5:00 p.m. *Dodge City*. 1939. With Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland, and Ann Sheridan. 112 min.

Saturday, January 2

2:00 p.m. *Mildred Pierce*. 1945. With Joan Crawford, Jack Carson, and Zachary Scott. 113 min.

5:00 p.m. *Angels with Dirty Faces*. 1938. With James Cagney, Pat O'Brien, and Humphrey Bogart. 97 min.

Sunday, January 3

2:00 p.m. *Dodge City*. See January 1 at 5:00.

5:00 p.m. *The Sea Hawk*. See January 1 at 2:00.

Monday, January 4

2:30 p.m. *Angels with Dirty Faces*. See January 2 at 5:00.

6:00 p.m. *Mildred Pierce*. See January 2 at 2:00.

Tuesday, January 5

2:30 p.m. *Yankee Doodle Dandy*. 1942. With James Cagney, Joan Leslie, and Walter Huston. 125 min. Preceded by the short, *Sons of Liberty*.

6:00 p.m. *Santa Fe Trail*. 1940. With Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland, and Raymond Massey. 112 min.

Thursday, January 7

2:30 p.m. *Santa Fe Trail*. See January 5 at 6:00.

6:00 p.m. *Yankee Doodle Dandy/Sons of Liberty*. See January 5 at 2:30.

Friday, January 8

2:30 p.m. *This is the Army*. 1943. With George Murphy, Joan Leslie, and George Tobias. 121 min.

6:00 p.m. *Mission to Moscow*. 1943. With Walter Huston, Ann Harding, and Oscar Homolka. 123 min.

Saturday, January 9

2:00 p.m. *Roughly Speaking*. 1945. With Rosalind Russell, Jack Carson, Robert Hutton. 117 min.

5:00 p.m. *Janie*. 1944. With Joyce Reynolds and Robert Hutton. 106 min.

Sunday, January 10

2:00 p.m. *Mission to Moscow*. See January 8 at 6:00.

5:00 p.m. *This is the Army*. See January 8 at 2:30.

Monday, January 11

2:30 p.m. *Janie*. See January 9 at 5:00.

6:00 p.m. *Roughly Speaking*. See January 9 at 2:00.

Tuesday, January 12

2:30 p.m. *White Christmas*. 1954. With Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, and Rosemary Clooney. 120 min.

6:00 p.m. *Jim Thorpe--All American*. 1951. With Burt Lancaster, Charles Bickford, and Steve Cochran. 107 min.

Thursday, January 14

- 2:30 p.m. *Jim Thorpe--All American*. See January 12 at 6:00.
6:00 p.m. *White Christmas*. See January 12 at 2:30.

Friday, January 15

- 2:30 p.m. *Force of Arms*. 1951. With William Holden, Nancy Olson, and Frank Lovejoy. 102 min.
6:00 p.m. *Bright Leaf*. 1950. With Gary Cooper, Lauren Bacall, and Patricia Neal. 110 min.

Saturday, January 16

- 2:00 p.m. *The Breaking Point*. 1950. With John Garfield, Lauren Bacall, and Patricia Neal. 97 min.
5:00 p.m. *Flamingo Road*. 1949. With Joan Crawford, Sydney Greenstreet, and Zachary Scott. 94 min.

Sunday, January 17

- 2:00 p.m. *Bright Leaf*. See January 15 at 6:00.
5:00 p.m. *Force of Arms*. See January 15 at 2:30.

Monday, January 18

- 2:00 p.m. *Flamingo Road*. See January 16 at 5:00.
5:00 p.m. *The Breaking Point*. See January 16 at 2:00.

Tuesday, January 19

- 2:30 p.m. *The Proud Rebel*. 1958. With Alan Ladd, Olivia de Havilland, and Dean Jagger. 103 min.
6:00 p.m. *The Egyptian*. 1954. With Jean Simmons, Victor Mature, and Gene Tierney. 140 min.

Thursday, January 21

- 2:30 p.m. *The Egyptian*. See January 19 at 6:00.
6:00 p.m. *The Proud Rebel*. See January 19 at 2:30.

Friday, January 22

- 2:30 p.m. *King Creole*. 1958. With Elvis Presley, Carolyn Jones, and Walter Matthau. 116 min.
6:00 p.m. *The Comancheros*. 1961. With John Wayne, Stuart Whitman, and Ina Balin. 106 min.

Saturday, January 23

- 2:00 p.m. *The Comancheros*. See January 22 at 6:00.
5:00 p.m. *King Creole*. See January 22 at 2:30.

* Silent film, piano accompaniment