

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
July 1993

A CENTURY OF CINEMA: SELECTIONS FROM THE MUSEUM'S SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Through January 15, 1994

The 100th anniversary of cinema is celebrated at The Museum of Modern Art with an exhibition of such rarely-seen treasures as original animation drawings, correspondence, film posters, set designs, stills, and artifacts.

A CENTURY OF CINEMA: SELECTIONS FROM THE MUSEUM'S SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, on view through January 15, 1994, is drawn from the special collections of the Museum's Film Study Center, Film Stills Archive, and other curatorial departments.

A CENTURY OF CINEMA offers an opportunity for the public to glimpse the drama behind the screen from one of the world's richest film archives. Since 1935, when the Department of Film was founded by Iris Barry as the Film Library, the Museum's mission has been to preserve and make available all aspects of the film medium.

The exhibition includes the daily production reports for *Gone With the Wind* (1939, Victor Fleming), documenting the changes in stars and directors; original drawings by Georges Méliès for his fantasy film *A Trip to the Moon* (1902); animation drawings for Max Fleischer's *Gulliver's Travels* (1939), Winsor McCay's *Gertie the Dinosaur* (1914), and Walt Disney's *Fantasia* (1940); set designs for *Citizen Kane* (1941); movie star portraits by photographers George Hurrell and Edward Steichen; a contract signed by D.W. Griffith, Charles Chaplin, Mary Pickford, and Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. on the founding of

United Artists in 1919; and a variety of letters and telegrams among producers, directors, and stars.

Promotional materials include, sheet music, pressbooks, souvenir programs, and richly illustrated studio "annual" books, produced by studios to publicize stars, yearly productions, and future releases to exhibitors and the press. Other rare items include an "Oswald the Lucky Rabbit" candy-bar wrapper, the very first product to market a Walt Disney character; handbills distributed during the Hollywood studio strike of the 1940's; original sketchbook caricatures of Laurel and Hardy by Isidore Klein for *Mother Goose Goes Hollywood* (1938); and drawings by artists from the Paul Terry Studio for the Terrytoons cartoon series.

A CENTURY OF CINEMA is organized by Mary Corliss, assistant curator, Department of Film, in collaboration with Ronald S. Magliozzi, assistant supervisor, Film Study Center, and Nancy Barnes, Study Center assistant.

* * *

No. 35

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