

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release

## \$1.2 MILLION TRUST ESTABLISHED BY LILLIAN GISH FOR THE FILM PRESERVATION FUND, THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

September 23, 1993....Mary Lea Bandy, chief curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art, announced today a \$1.2 million trust fund established by the late actress Lillian Gish (1893-1993) for the Museum's Department of Film to continue its work in saving silent films. The trust fund is to be used for the acquisition, preservation, and storage of films starring Ms. Gish, her sister Dorothy, and films directed by D. W. Griffith, as well as for related research and publications.

"It is the largest gift ever donated by a film artist for preservation," stated Ms. Bandy. "We are extremely thankful for this generous gift from Ms. Gish, who not only personifies the history of cinema in the United States, but was a pioneer in promoting the appreciation and the preservation of motion pictures. She worked tirelessly to convince the United States Congress and a worldwide public that film, as a universal language, must be saved."

In addition to many of her films that have been preserved, such as Griffith's *Way Down East* (1920), future works to be preserved include the Biograph Studio shorts directed by Griffith and his feature-length films, such as *Broken Blossoms* (1919), starring Gish. In their legendary collaboration, Lillian Gish and Griffith made forty-five films together, and it is largely due to her persuasive efforts that Griffith donated his films and papers to The Museum of Modern Art in the early 1940s.

\* \* \*

For further information or film stills, contact Barbara Marshall, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752. No. 55