

The Museum of Modern Art

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FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF BRITISH THEATER COME ALIVE IN AN ENGAGING SERIES OF THIRTY-ONE FILMS AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

**Sparkling Adaptations of Work First Seen in London's West End
Showcase the Considerable Talents
of British Playwrights, Screenwriters, Directors, and Actors**

***Cavalcade: From British Stage to Screen*
September 11–October 19, 1997
The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters 1 and 2**

The Museum of Modern Art kicks off its fall film season this September with *Cavalcade: From British Stage to Screen*, a lively program of thirty-one films adapted from plays first performed on the London stage. Beginning September 11 and running through October 19, the series spans four hundred years of British theater, from Derek Jarman's *Edward II* (1991), based on the play written by Christopher Marlowe in 1590, to Nicholas Hytner's *The Madness of King George* (1995), based on Alan Bennett's play of 1991.

Drawn principally from the collections of the National Film and Television Archive of the British Film Institute and The Museum of Modern Art, *Cavalcade* features several rarely seen films—including *Oscar Wilde* (1959), *How He Lied to Her Husband* (1930), *Loot* (1970), and *The Homecoming* (1973)—and showcases newly restored 35mm prints of Noel Coward's *This Happy Breed* and *Blithe Spirit* (1944 and 1945,

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respectively, directed by David Lean) and Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* (1947, directed by Alexander Korda).

Cavalcade is a companion piece to the Museum's popular and critically well-received 1995 film series, *Screen Plays: From Broadway to Hollywood, 1920-1966*, a retrospective of more than 125 films adapted from New York stage productions. As with the earlier series, *Cavalcade* celebrates some of the theater's most brilliant and provocative dramatists—in this case, James Barrie, Robert Bolt, George Bernard Shaw, Alan Bennett, John Galsworthy, Frederick Lonsdale, J.B. Priestley, Terence Rattigan, John Osborne, Harold Pinter, Joe Orton, Shelagh Delaney, Patrick Hamilton, and Simon Gray, among others.

Another of the series's great pleasures is the opportunity to see several decades of masterful performances by renowned British stage actors, including Alan Bates, Paul Scofield, Albert Finney, John Gielgud, Ian Holm, Joan Plowright, Vanessa Redgrave, Constance Cummings, Celia Johnson, Diana Wynyard, Rex Harrison, Ralph Richardson, Wendy Hiller, Charles Laughton, Nigel Hawthorne, and Glenda Jackson; as well as some of the finest work of British filmmakers known for having brought a theatrical sensibility to the cinema, among them Derek Jarman, Carol Reed, Victor Saville, Laurence Olivier, Tony Richardson, Basil Dean, and Nicholas Hytner (who introduces the screening of *The Madness of King George* on September 19).

Organized by Joshua Siegel, Assistant Curator, Department of Film and Video, The Museum of Modern Art; William S. Kenly, theater and film historian; and Clyde Jeavons, Curator, the National Film and Television Archive (NFTVA), British Film Institute, London.

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The Department of Film and Video is grateful to Elaine Burrows, Kathleen Dickson, and Bryony Dixon of NFTVA, for their help in organizing the series. The exhibition is supported by generous grants from The Billy Rose Foundation and Virgin Atlantic Airways.

You are cordially invited to press screenings for

Cavalcade: From British Stage to Screen

Tuesday, August 26

The Museum of Modern Art

The Time Warner Screening Room, 5th Floor.

- 11:00 *An Ideal Husband*. 1947. Great Britain. Alexander Korda. Screenplay by Lajos Biro, based on the play by Oscar Wilde. With Paulette Goddard, Hugh Williams, C. Aubrey Smith, Diana Wynyard. Print restored by the National Film and Television Archive, London. 96 min.
- 12:45 *Laburnum Grove*. 1936. Great Britain. Carol Reed. Screenplay by Gordon Wellesley, Anthony Kimmins, based on the play by J.B. Priestley. With Cedric Hardwicke, Edmund Gwenn, Victoria Hopper. Courtesy the National Film and Television Archive, London. 73 min.
- 2:00 Break
- 3:00 *Entertaining Mr. Sloane*. 1969. Great Britain. Douglas Hickox. Screenplay by Clive Exton, based on the play by Joe Orton. With Beryl Reid, Harry Andrews, Peter McEnery. Courtesy the National Film and Television Archive, London. 94 min.

TO RSVP PLEASE CALL GRAHAM LEGGAT AT 212/708-9752.

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Members of the press: For more information, please contact Graham Leggat at 212/708-9752. For more information on the Museum and its programs, visit our Web site at www.moma.org.