

## THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART PRESENTS FESTIVAL OF DOCUMENTARY FILMS

A vast panorama of contemporary history will be shown at the Museum of Modern Art in a six-month's series of the great films of fact made during the past three decades. The series will start on New Year's Day 1946 and will range from the Pathé Newsreel showing Wilson signing the declaration of war in 1917 and suffragettes rioting at the White House in 1918, to Housing in Scotland and Fury in the Pacific, both produced in 1945. In the intervening period such violent contrasts occur as Moana, Robert Flaherty's idyllic documentary of the South Seas made in 1922, and the terrible To the Shores of Iwo Jima photographed in technicolor by Navy, Marine and Coast Guard cameramen. Sweeney Steps Out, a little boy's adventures in the Bronx Zoo narrated by John Kieran, reminds us, as does The Autobiography of a Jeep that the world of today is by no means entirely made up of conflict and death.

Newsreels made exclusively for the fighting men, and cartoons featuring Snafu, will be included as will many varieties of heretofore secret training and incentive films. Other films to be shown in the series are such striking American documentaries as The Plow That Broke The Plains and The Spanish Earth. The mere title Housing Problems gives no indication of the human poignance and hilarity found in a short film from England in which slum dwellers tell of their mighty battles with enormous rats. The AAF's training film Resisting Enemy Interrogation, is as thrilling as a Hitchcock melodrama, while Lili Marlene tells the strange story of an enemy song that became counter-propaganda.

Iris Barry, Curator of the Museum of Modern Art Film Library, has spent the past year in reviewing many hundreds of documentary films and selecting them for the series. In the introduction to the catalog of Documentary Films: 1922-1945 she writes:

"Widely disseminated as documentary films have been, only a fraction of them was shown in movie theatres and then often but briefly. There remains therefore a vast segment of the public that heard these films spoken about without being able to see them, and others who wished unavailingly for a chance to see for a second time pictures like Desert Victory or The True Glory. For all such, as well as film practitioners and film students, this series is particularly intended.

"While the difficulties met in assembling the programs

were considerable, the Film Library was fortunate indeed in gaining permission to include material not previously exhibited outside the armed services. Thanks are due especially to Brigadier-General E. L. Munson Jr., Lieutenant-Commander Philo Higley and Mr. Irving Lerner for the invaluable help they gave in obtaining a number of the pictures from the Signal Corps, the Navy and OWI Overseas Branch respectively.

"Acknowledgments are in order, above all, to the Rockefeller Foundation for enabling the Curator of the Film Library to undertake a prolonged study of the wartime documentary film last year. It was this survey, and the opportunities it afforded to review great numbers of films of all kinds, which inspired the assembly and exhibition of the series as a whole."

Each program of the series will be shown either three or four consecutive days, on weekdays including Saturdays at 3 and 5:30 P.M. and on Sundays and major holidays\* at 1:20, 3:30 and 5:30 P.M. The schedule is as follows:

DOCUMENTARY FILMS: 1922-1945

- Jan. 1-3----AN OUTLINE OF THE NON-FICTION FILM  
In Seville, 1909  
Pathe Newsreel, 1917-31  
The Pacific Problem, 1934  
The Story of the White House, 1936  
High Plain, 1943
- Jan. 4-6----SOURCES OF DOCUMENTARY I.  
Kino Pravda, 1922  
Battle of the Somme, 1927 (excerpt)  
Nanook of the North, 1922
- Jan. 7-10---SOURCES OF DOCUMENTARY II.  
The Covered Wagon, 1923  
Ballet Mecanique, 1924
- Jan. 11-13--SOURCES OF DOCUMENTARY III.  
Ten Days that Shook the World, 1927  
The Bridge, 1927
- Jan. 14-17--TRAVEL FILMS: NEW STYLE  
Grass, 1925
- Jan. 18-20--THE DOCUMENTARY FILM  
Moana, 1926
- Jan. 21-24--THE ADVANCE GUARD  
Rien Que Les Heures, 1926-27  
Berlin: The Symphony of a Great City, 1927
- Jan. 25-27--TRAVEL FILMS: NEW STYLE  
Chang, 1927
- Jan. 28-31--ENGLISH DOCUMENTARIES  
Industrial Britain, 1933  
Granton Trawler, 1934  
Catch of the Season, 1937  
Night Mail, 1936
- Feb. 1 - 3--SOCIAL COMMENT: TRAVEL  
Land Without Bread, 1932  
Easter Island, 1934  
Song of Ceylon, 1934-36
- Feb. 4 - 7--ENGLISH DOCUMENTARIES: SOCIAL PROBLEMS  
Housing Problems, 1935  
Enough to Eat, 1936  
Line to Tschierva Hut, 1937  
Eastern Valley, 1937
- Feb. 8-10---TRAVEL AND ANTHROPOLOGY  
The Wedding of Palo, 1937
- Feb. 11-14--AMERICAN DOCUMENTARIES  
The Plow that Broke the Plains, 1936  
The River, 1937
- Feb. 15-17--THE COMING OF WAR  
Spanish A.B.C., 1938  
The Spanish Earth, 1937
- Feb. 18-21--THE COMING OF WAR  
The Four Hundred Million, 1939
- Feb. 22-24--SOCIAL COMMENT: HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH  
The Londoners, 1939  
The City, 1939

\* The Museum of Modern Art is always closed on Christmas Day.

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Feb. 25-28----THE COMING OF WAR  
Crisis, 1938  
The Land, 1941

Mar. 1--3----SOCIAL COMMENT: PUBLIC HEALTH  
The Fight for Life, 1941

Mar. 4--7----A REVIEW OF DOCUMENTARY FILM DEVELOPMENT  
Film and Reality, 1939-41

Mar. 8-10----FILMS FOR EDUCATION  
Die Steinernen Wunder von Naumburg, 1935  
Van Eyck's "Adoration of the Lamb," 1937  
La Lettre, 1938  
The Transfer of Power, 1939  
Sweeney Steps Out, 1944  
Cold Front, 1943  
Chicken Little, 1943

Mar. 11-14----SOCIAL COMMENT: UNEMPLLYMENT AND RURAL ELECTRIFICATION  
Valley Town, 1940  
Power and the Land, 1940

Mar. 15-17----THE COMING OF WAR: GERMAN PROPAGANDA FILMS  
The Triumph of the Will, 1934-36  
Pilots, Gunners, Radio Operators, 1937  
The Baptism of Fire, 1940  
Newsreels, 1940

Mar. 18-21----THE COMING OF WAR  
The Ramparts we Watch, 1940

Mar. 22-24----ENGLISH WARTIME DOCUMENTARIES  
Channel Incident, 1940  
They Also Serve, 1940  
Target for Tonight, 1941

Mar. 25-28----AMERICAN WARTIME DOCUMENTARIES  
Power for Defense, 1941  
Ring of Steel, 1942  
Fellow Americans, 1942  
At the Front in North Africa, 1942

Mar. 29-31----AMERICAN WARTIME DOCUMENTARIES  
The World at War, 1943

Apr. 1--4----ENGLISH WARTIME DOCUMENTARIES  
Desert Victory, 1942-43

Apr. 5--7----THE U. S. ARMY'S "WHY WE FIGHT" SERIES  
Prelude to War, 1943

Apr. 8-11----THE U. S. ARMY'S "WHY WE FIGHT" SERIES  
The Nazis Strike, 1943  
Divide and Conquer, 1943

Apr. 12-14----THE U. S. ARMY'S "WHY WE FIGHT" SERIES  
The Battle of Britain, 1943

Apr. 15-18----THE U. S. ARMY'S "WHY WE FIGHT" SERIES  
The Battle of China, 1944

Apr. 19-21----THE U. S. ARMY'S "WHY WE FIGHT" SERIES  
The Battle of Russia, 1943

Apr. 22-25----THE U. S. ARMY'S "WHY WE FIGHT" SERIES  
War Comes to America

Apr. 26-28----AMERICAN WARTIME DOCUMENTARIES  
The Negro Soldier, 1944  
Army-Navy Screen Magazine No. 65, 1945  
The Battle of San Pietro, 1945

Apr. 29-May 2--THE ARMY-NAVY SCREEN MAGAZINE  
Army-Navy Screen Magazine Issue No. 10, 1945  
Army-Navy Screen Magazine Issue No. 22, 1945  
Army-Navy Screen Magazine Issue No. 42, 1945  
Army-Navy Screen Magazine Issue No. 51, 1945

May 3--5----AMERICAN WARTIME DOCUMENTARIES: OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
War Department Report, 1943

May 6--9----AMERICAN WARTIME DOCUMENTARIES  
Report from the Aleutians, 1943  
Memphis Belle, 1944  
Thunderbolt, 1945

May 10-12----AMERICAN WARTIME DOCUMENTARIES: ARMY AIR FORCES  
Wings Up, 1943  
AAF Report, 1944

May 13-16----ENGLISH WARTIME DOCUMENTARIES  
Listen to Britain, 1942  
The Liberation of Rome, 1944  
Lili Marlene, 1944

May 17-19----AMERICAN WARTIME DOCUMENTARIES  
Resisting Enemy Interrogation, 1944  
Baptism of Fire, 1943

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- May 20--23-----AMERICAN WAR DOCUMENTARIES: ARMY AIR FORCES  
Land and Live in the Jungle, 1944
- May 24--26-----AMERICAN WARTIME DOCUMENTARIES: OFFICE OF WAR  
INFORMATION  
War Town, 1943  
The Road to Victory, 1944  
Skirmish on the Home Front, 1944  
How Good is a Gun? 1944  
America's Hidden Weapon, 1944  
Out of the Frying Pan into the Firing Line,  
1942
- May 27--30-----WARTIME DOCUMENTARIES  
Naval Operations, 1942  
Brought to Action, 1944  
Attack! The Battle for New Britain, 1944
- May 31-June 2-INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE  
Know Your Ally, Britain, 1944  
United States, 1945
- June 3--6-----AMERICAN WARTIME DOCUMENTARIES: PROSTHESIS & PSYCHIATRY  
Swinging into Step, 1944  
Psychiatric Film as yet untitled, 1945
- June 7--9-----AMERICAN WARTIME DOCUMENTARIES: OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION  
TION OVERSEAS BRANCH  
The Town, 1944  
A Salute to France, 1944  
The Autobiography of a Jeep, 1943  
Tuesday in November, 1945
- June 10-13-----AMERICAN WARTIME DOCUMENTARIES: OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION  
TION OVERSEAS BRANCH  
Capital Story, 1945  
The Library of Congress, 1945  
The Cummington Story, 1945  
A Better Tomorrow, 1945
- June 14-16-----TOWARDS THE FUTURE  
San Francisco, 1945  
Our Navy after the War, 1945  
World of Plenty, 1945
- June 17-20-----AMERICAN WARTIME DOCUMENTARIES: OFFICE OF THE COOR-  
DINATOR OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
The Bridge, 1944  
El Agente Agrónomo, 1945  
The Grain that built a Hemisphere, 1943  
Water, Friend of Enemy, 1944
- June 21-23-----TOWARDS THE FUTURE  
Naples is a Battlefield, 1944  
Housing in Scotland, 1945  
Children of the City, 1944
- June 24-27-----CANADIAN DOCUMENTARIES  
Geopolitics: Hitler's Plan for Empire, 1942  
When Asia Speaks, 1944  
Inside France, 1944  
Food--Secret of the Peace, 1945
- June 28-30-----AMERICAN WARTIME DOCUMENTARIES  
The Story of Big Ben, 1944  
With the Marines at Tarawa, 1944  
The Battle for the Marianas, 1944  
Fury in the Pacific, 1945
- July 1--7-----THE ANGLO-AMERICAN FILM  
The True Glory, 1945
- July 8-14-----Western Approaches, 1944  
To the Shores of Iwo Jima, 1945