

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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MUSEUM OF MODERN ART AND FRENCH FILM OFFICE ANNOUNCE FIVE MONTH FILM CYCLE AT THE MUSEUM

Plans were completed in Paris, France, this week for the opening at the Museum of Modern Art next April of the largest commemorative film show ever held in this country -- "The French Film: 1874 - 1956." Mr. Joseph Maternati, head of the French Film Office in New York, representing the Centre National de la Cinématographie and Unifrance, the French association of film producers, has been in Paris overseeing final preparations for the shipment of some 500 crates of films and materials for the show, which the French Film Office will co-sponsor with the Museum of Modern Art.

The retrospect is the result of over two years' intensive research and preparation by Henri Langlois, curator of the government-financed Cinémathèque Française and by Miss Iris Barry, former director of the Museum's film library, now resident in France. Both are known internationally for their pioneering efforts in behalf of the preservation of motion pictures, while Mr. Langlois is especially renowned as designer of most of the major exhibitions of historical motion pictures in Europe. Together they have selected 200 films to represent every phase of French production, including some which have not yet been released, or even seen before, in this country. Scheduled in the survey will be many of the works which won for French films their pre-eminence among art-house audiences in this country; a wide group of avant-garde productions by painters, photographers and writers; animated cartoons; as well as scientific and anthropological pictures.

His excellency, Mr. Hervé Alphand, French ambassador to the United States, is sponsoring the retrospect and will be present to open it officially at a gala premiere to which many of the stars and directors who made the films to be shown have been invited. Mr. Langlois has written a major survey of the French Film, based on the show, which will be published jointly by the Museum and the French Film Office.

The retrospect will last five months, ending on Labor Day, and will require special screenings at 1:30 on weekends in addition to the regular daily shows at 3 and 5:30 pm in order to accommodate all the selections. A detailed schedule will be issued on or about March 1st.

Photographs and special publicity material will be available from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, CI 5-8900.