

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

For release:

Wednesday, May 1, 1957

No. 34

FRENCH FILM CYCLE ANNOUNCED AT RECEPTION FOR JACQUES FLAUD

The program for "Sixty Years of French Film," which will be presented at the Museum of Modern Art from May 29 through September 30, was announced on Monday (April 29) at a reception at the Museum held in honor of Mr. Jacques Flaud, head of the French Government's National Center of Motion Pictures. The cycle, which is the largest commemorative film cycle ever presented in the United States, will be presented jointly by the Museum's Film Library and by the French Film Office in New York, representing the Centre National de la Cinematographie and Unifrance, the French association of film producers.

Mr. Flaud, who was on his way back to Paris after touring the Far East, paid tribute to the Museum for its pioneering acceptance of motion pictures as an art worthy of appreciation and display on a level with other modern visual arts. He also extended the warm appreciation and thanks of the French Government to Miss Iris Barry, first curator of the Film Library, who saved many of the classic French films from destruction by storing them in New York during the Occupation of France. "Neither the Government nor French Film lovers have forgotten," he said. The retrospect, which includes 40 programs totalling more than 80 films, is France's thanks for the Museum's help during those difficult times, he said.

The retrospect has been assembled by Henri Langlois, director of the government financed Cinematheque Francaise in Paris, with the assistance of Miss Iris Barry, former director of the Museum's Film Library, now resident in France. Both are internationally known for their pioneering efforts in behalf of the preservation of important motion pictures, while Mr. Langlois is especially renowned as designer of most of the major exhibitions of historical motion pictures in Europe. Mr. Langlois' selection has been arranged for showing here by John Adams, Assistant to the Curator of the Film Library, who has also written the exhibition catalogue for "Sixty Years of French Film."

In announcing the show, Richard Griffith, Miss Barry's successor as Curator of the Film Library, said, "Henri Langlois, as director of the Cinematheque Francaise, literally and physically has been saving masterpieces of the cinema from destruction ever since he founded his institution in 1935. He now makes available to the New York motion picture public some of the riches which he has conserved. He is especially renowned as designer of most of the major exhibitions of historical motion pictures in Europe, and he has here assembled many of the legendary films, much loved in Europe but never shown here, for which American enthusiasts have long been avid - Rene Clair's TWO TIMID SOULS (1928), Jean Renoir's first sound film LA CHIENNE (1931),

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which he made "exactly as I wanted, " as well as more recent work, such as Jean Gren-
illion's THE SKY IS YOURS (1944), produced in an effort to inspire confidence in the
Resistance Movement. Here, too, are films affectionately remembered by American
audiences, but for many years unavailable - Jean Benoit-Levy's tender LA MATERNELLE
(1933), René Clair's FOURTEENTH OF JULY (1932), and the original, uncut, CHILDREN OF
PARADISE (1945). No cinema is more intensely national than the French, and out of
this collection of films, the image of France herself comes to life."

Arriving in New York with Mr. Flaud, were Mr. Raoul Ploquin, producer of
THE SKY IS YOURS, and currently head of the French Association of Motion Pictures
producers and Exporters' and Mr. Robert Cravenne, head of Unifrance, the French assoc-
iation for the promotion of French films. Their mission in this country is to help
make French pictures better known. In the past year the American market has risen
from tenth in importance for French producers to second place. The Retrospect, there-
fore, comes at a fortunate moment when attention is focused more than ever on French
motion pictures.

His excellency, Mr. Herve Alphan, French ambassador to the United States, is
personally sponsoring the show and will be present to open it officially at a gala
premiere of a new French film, the evening of May 28.

The Programs and stills are available on request from Elizabeth Shaw, Publicity Dir-
ector, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 St., New York, N. Y. Circle 5-8900.