

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

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## ZINNEMANN'S THE MEN, BENJY, AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The Men (1950) and Benjy (1951) will be shown at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, March 16 - 19, the first of six programs in the series "The Films of Fred Zinnemann." There will be daily showings at 3 and 5:30.

Set in a hospital ward, The Men is a study of paralyzed young veterans sentenced to wheelchairs for life. "Under Zinnemann's direction," Richard Griffith, Curator of the Film Library writes, "Marlon Brando lay for a month in a 32-bed ward, practicing the paraplegic's exercises, enduring his immobility, and learning to manipulate a wheelchair....And indeed, though now their faces have become familiar, it was impossible in 1950 to tell the actors from the patients. Zinnemann's direction of them was so delicate as to seem not to exist. The action seemed merely what happened from day to day in a ward full of men whose remaining hope of life was to kill the hope of walking again and settle for what was left which, for the moment, was the companionship of one another." Featured with Brando are Teresa Wright, Everett Sloane, Jack Webb, Richard Erdman and paraplegic patients of Birmingham Veterans Hospital, Van Nuys, California; produced by Stanley Kramer for United Artists; screenplay by Carl Foreman.

Narrated by Henry Fonda and produced by The Orthopaedic Foundation of Los Angeles with the cooperation of Paramount, Benjy was one of several short films made to raise money for the Foundation. "It stands in interesting contrast to The Men," Mr. Griffith writes, "in that, instead of trying to report all aspects of its subject, it works ever more deeply toward the core of its young hero's tragedy. Aside from that interest, Benjy is an achievement beyond its immediate purpose. It brilliantly demonstrates an important fact of film propaganda technique: that the camera treatment of a human experience can build such emotional involvement and sympathy that direct propagandist appeal becomes unnecessary. The film achieves its aim while hardly mentioning it." Directed by Fred Zinnemann from a screenplay by Stewart Stern.

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For additional information please contact Herbert Bronstein, Assistant Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York.