

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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

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FOR RELEASE

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OLYMPIA, FILM OF 1936 OLYMPIC GAMES AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Olympia, Leni Riefenstahl's two part film of the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin, will be shown at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street; Part I, August 21 - 27, and again September 4 - 10; Part II, August 28 - September 3, again September 11 - 17. All showings will be daily at 3 and 5:30. There will be a special public screening of Part I on Thursday, August 25, at 8:00 p.m.

To document the XIth Olympic games of 1936 in Berlin, Leni Riefenstahl and her corps of cameramen registered over a million feet of film, much of it in slow motion. From Leicas to huge telescopic cameras, every kind of apparatus was used, often concealed in pits, operated underwater, mounted on electrically propelled tracks, on traveling cranes, cars, boats, balloons. Out of that footage, this film was composed, issued in 1938 in two parts, prepared in four languages and in several versions. Beyond its beauty and interest as a sports record, Olympia perpetuates a singular refutation of Nazi racial theory, for Jesse Owens, and not Hitler, is the inevitable hero.

Richard Griffith, Curator of the Film Library, regards Miss Riefenstahl as "a talent which we must, however reluctantly, recognize as one of the most brilliant ever to be concerned with films... Let it suffice to say that this woman's knowledge of the power of editing images was profound, nearly as ^{profound as} Pabst's or Eisenstein's. The scene she surveyed so powerfully was obliterated with the destruction of the swastika atop the stadium at Nuremburg by American artillery. But the ideological artillery of America has yet to demonstrate that it can destroy, by matching, the psychic world which she created out of nothing with camera and shears. Nazi Germany is no more, but the challenge stands."

Part I of Olympia consists of an introduction and track and field events; Part II, gymnast and aquatic events; sailing and rowing; field hockey; polo and soccer; equestrian events; bicycling; marathon and decathlon.

Further information from Herbert Bronstein, Assistant Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. CI 5-8900.