

3/8/65

PROGRAM

D. W. GRIFFITH: AMERICAN FILM MASTER

The films listed are all directed by Griffith, except where otherwise noted.

PART I

- April 25-28: 1907 RESCUED FROM AN EAGLE'S NEST, Edison, directed by Edwin S. Porter; with D. W. Griffith.
1909 THE LONELY VILLA, Biograph; with Mary Pickford, Marion Leonard.
1911 THE LONEDALE OPERATOR, Biograph; with Blanche Sweet, Wilfred Lucas.
1912 THE GIRL AND HER TRUST, Biograph; with Dorothy Bernard, Wilfred Lucas.
1913 OLAF - AN ATOM, Biograph; with Harry Carey (director unknown, but probably D. W. Griffith).

Biograph films:

- April 29-
May 1: 1909 A DRUNKARD'S REFORMATION, with Linda Arvidson, Arthur Johnson.
1909 A CORNER IN WHEAT, with Frank Powell, Henry Walthall.
1910 THE USURER, with Grace Henderson, George Nichols.
1911 THE MISER'S HEART, with Edward Dillon, Wilfred Lucas.
1912 THE MUSKETEERS OF PIG ALLEY, with Dorothy and Lillian Gish.
- May 2-5: 1912 MAN'S GENESIS, Biograph; with Mae Marsh, Robert Harron.
1913-14 JUDITH OF BETHULIA, Biograph; with Blanche Sweet, Henry Walthall.
- May 6-8: 1911 ENOCH ARDEN, Biograph; with Linda Arvidson, Wilfred Lucas.
1914 HOME, SWEET HOME, Mutual; with Lillian Gish, Henry Walthall, Mae Marsh, Robert Harron, Blanche Sweet, Owen Moore.
- May 9-12: 1912 THE GODDESS OF SAGEBRUSH GULCH, Biograph; with Blanche Sweet, Dorothy Bernard, Charles West.
1914 THE AVENGING CONSCIENCE, Mutual; with Blanche Sweet, Henry Walthall, Spottiswoode Aiken.
- May 13-15: 1915 THE BIRTH OF A NATION, Epoch; with Lillian Gish, Mae Marsh, Henry Walthall, Robert Harron, Elmer Clifton, Ralph Lewis.
One showing only at 3:00 p.m.; also at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 13.
- May 16-19: 1910 THE LAST DEAL, Biograph; with James Kirkwood, Owen Moore.
1911 A TERRIBLE DISCOVERY, Biograph; with Wilfred Lucas, Charles Mailes, Edna Foster.
1916 HOODOO ANN, Triangle, supervised by Griffith, directed by Lloyd Ingraham; with Mae Marsh.
- May 20-22: 1916 INTOLERANCE, Wark; with Mae Marsh, Robert Harron, Howard Gaye, Lillian Langdon, Margery Wilson, Eugene Pallette, Constance Talmadge, Lillian Gish. One showing only at 3:00 p.m.; also at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 20.
- May 23-26: TO BE ANNOUNCED (NOT PART OF GRIFFITH SERIES).

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PART II

- May 27-29: 1918 HEARTS OF THE WORLD, Griffith-Artcraft; with Lillian and Dorothy Gish, Robert Harron, George A. Siegmann, Robert Anderson. One showing only at 3:00 p.m.; also at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 27.
- May 30- June 2: 1912 THE NEW YORK HAT, Biograph; with Mary Pickford, Lionel Barrymore, Mae Marsh, Mabel Norman, Lillian and Dorothy Gish.
- 1919 THE GIRL WHO STAYED AT HOME, Artcraft; with Carol Dempster, Richard Barthelmess, Robert Harron.
- June 3-5: 1912 THE GOD WITHIN, Biograph; with Blanche Sweet, Lionel Barrymore, Henry Walthall.
- 1919 TRUE HEART SUSIE, Artcraft; with Lillian Gish, Robert Harron, Clarine Seymour, Carol Dempster.
- June 6-9: 1919 BROKEN BLOSSOMS, Artcraft-United Artists; with Lillian Gish, Richard Barthelmess, Donald Crisp, Edward Peil.
- June 10-12: 1919 THE GREATEST QUESTION, First National; with Lillian Gish, Robert Harron, Ralph Graves, Eugenie Besserer.
- June 13-14: 1920 THE IDOL DANCER, First National; with Richard Barthelmess, Clarine Seymour, Creighton Hale, Kate Bruce.
- June 15-16: 1920 THE LOVE FLOWER, First National-United Artists; with Carol Dempster, Richard Barthelmess, George MacQuarrie.
- June 17-19: 1920 WAY DOWN EAST, United Artists; with Lillian Gish, Richard Barthelmess, Lowell Sherman, Burr McIntosh. One showing only at 3:00 p.m.; also at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 17.
- June 20-23: 1921 DREAM STREET, United Artists; with Carol Dempster, Ralph Graves, Charles Emmett Mack, Tyrone Power. One showing only at 3:00 p.m.
- June 24-26: 1922 ORPHANS OF THE STORM, United Artists; with Lillian and Dorothy Gish, Joseph Schildkraut, Creighton Hale, Monte Blue. One showing only at 3:00 p.m.; also at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 24.
- June 27-30: TO BE ANNOUNCED (NOT PART OF GRIFFITH SERIES)

PART III

- July 1-3: 1922 ONE EXCITING NIGHT, United Artists; with Carol Dempster, Henry Hull, Porter Strong, Morgan Wallace.
- July 4-7: 1923 THE WHITE ROSE, United Artists; with Mae Marsh, Carol Dempster, Ivor Novello, Neil Hamilton. One showing only at 3:00 p.m.
- July 8-10: 1924 AMERICA, United Artists; with Carol Dempster, Neil Hamilton, Erville Alderson, Frank McGlynn, Jr., Lionel Barrymore. One showing only at 3:00 p.m.; also at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 8.

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- July 11-14: 1924 ISN'T LIFE WONDERFUL, United Artists; Carol Dempster, Neil Hamilton, Erville Alderson, Lupino Lane.
- July 15-16: 1925 SALLY OF THE SAWDUST, Paramount-United Artists; with W. C. Fields, Carol Dempster, Alfred Lunt, Erville Alderson.
- July 17-18: 1926 THE SORROWS OF SATAN, Paramount; with Ricardo Cortez, Carol Dempster, Adolphe Menjou, Lya de Putti, Ivan Lebedeff.
- July 19-20: 1928 DRUMS OF LOVE, Art Cinema-United Artists; with Mary Philbin, Lionel Barrymore, Don Alvarado, Tully Marshall.
- July 21-22: 1928 THE BATTLE OF THE SEXES, Art Cinema-United Artists; with Jean Hersholt, Phyllis Haver, Belle Bennett, Don Alvarado, Sally O'Neill.
- July 23-24: 1929 LADY OF THE PAVEMENTS, Art Cinema-United Artists; with Lupe Velez, Jetta Goudal, William Boyd, George Fawcett.
- July 25-28: 1930 ABRAHAM LINCOLN, Art Cinema-United Artists; with Walter Huston, Una Merkel, Kay Hammond, E. Alyn Warren, Hobart Bosworth.
- July 29-31: 1931 THE STRUGGLE, United Artists; with Hal Skelly, Zita Johann, Evelyn Baldwin, Edna Hagan.

Schedule subject to change without notice. Music for the silent films arranged and played by Arthur Kleiner. Showings daily at 3:00 and 5:30 p.m., except where noted, and again at 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays.

D. W. GRIFFITH: AMERICAN FILM MASTER

The Museum of Modern Art Film Library will present 43 films by D. W. Griffith from April 25 through July 31, 1965. Spanning Griffith's work from 1907 to 1931, the series will be the most comprehensive retrospective ever held of the accomplishments of one of the most important film artists of the 20th century. Seven of the films included have not had a public showing since their original release. The series is under the direction of Eileen Bowser, a member of the Film Library staff since 1953.

The series comprises all of Griffith's feature films which are still known to exist, as well as a selection of the one-reel films he turned out by the hundreds for the Biograph Company between 1908 and 1913, in the course of which he established the basic techniques of the film medium. The famous masterworks, *THE BIRTH OF A NATION* (1915) and *INTOLERANCE* (1916), in which his discoveries reached their summation, will be screened.

Also to be shown are the war propaganda films, such as *HEARTS OF THE WORLD* (1918) and *THE GIRL WHO STAYED AT HOME* (1919); the lovely and almost unknown piece of rural Americana, *TRUE HEART SUSIE* (1919); the films of melodrama and spectacle, *WAY DOWN EAST* (1920) and *ORPHANS OF THE STORM* (1922); the patriotic epics, *AMERICA* (1924) and *ABRAHAM LINCOLN* (1930); and the social documentary of post-World War I Germany, *ISN'T LIFE WONDERFUL* (1924). Also to be presented are the lesser films, the experiments that failed, *DREAM STREET* (1921), *DRUMS OF LOVE* (1928) and *THE STRUGGLE* (1931).

Mrs. Bowser points out that the series offers a unique opportunity to see whatever survives of the original toned and tinted prints which, unfortunately, deteriorate with age and make duplicate prints necessary, thus losing some of their beautiful photographic quality. The original print of *THE WHITE ROSE* (1923), for example, has now deteriorated and a copy made by the Film Library will be shown in the retrospective. The fine original prints of *THE BIRTH OF A NATION*, *INTOLERANCE* and *BROKEN*

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BLOSSOMS (1919) will, it is hoped, hold up for at least one more showing. In one or two cases these exist as slightly longer prints in restored but duplicated copies, but for this program the original prints of these three will be shown.

David Wark Griffith, who was born on January 22, 1875, in La Grange, Kentucky, began his movie career acting and selling film stories to studios. In 1908, he directed his first picture, THE ADVENTURES OF DOLLIE. Between 1908 and 1913, he directed more than 300 films for Biograph. He joined the new Reliance-Majestic Company in 1913, taking with him cameraman G. W. Bitzer and many actors from Biograph. BIRTH OF A NATION, the story of the Civil War and reconstruction period based on Thomas Dixon's "The Clansman," was released in 1915. Hailed as a great work of art, it was an outstanding financial success, but stirred up the still-existing controversy over its emotion-charged depiction of the Southern Negro.

His next film, INTOLERANCE (1916), is a complex inter-weaving of four stories from different periods of time. It was not as successful financially, but had greater influence on international filmmaking. By 1916, Griffith had done more than any one man to develop the unique language of the screen, to free it from stage conventions, to give flexibility to the camera and to develop imaginative and purposeful cutting of the film itself. His achievements were numerous: with Bitzer, he developed the meaningful use of long shots to open up the field of vision to great vistas, close shots to investigate the most fleeting human emotions, and cross-cutting to heighten tension through parallel scenes, to mention only a few.

D. W. GRIFFITH: AMERICAN FILM MASTER by Iris Barry, the Film Library's first Curator (1935-1951), which has long been out of print, has been re-issued by the Museum with the addition of an annotated list by Eileen Bowser of all Griffith's films and an enlarged selection of stills. Published by the Museum, the book will sell for \$6.95 (hardbound) and \$2.95 (paperbound) (plus 25 cents postage for mail orders). The hardbound edition will be distributed nationally by Doubleday and Company, Inc.

A selection of stills from Griffith's films will be on view in the Museum's Auditorium Gallery from April 19 through the end of May. Selected by Mrs. Bowser, more...

they will be installed by Kathleen Haven.

Since the Film Library held the first D. W. Griffith series in 1940, seventeen additional films have become available and will be included in the series.

Arthur Kleiner, who has been Music Director of the Film Library since 1939, will arrange and play piano accompaniments for the silent films. The series is divided into three parts, each part separated by a screening that is not in the Griffith series.

Program Attached

Stills and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Linda Goldsmith, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.