

The Museum of Modern Art

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BELLE DE JOUR, Luis Bunuel's prize-winning motion picture, will have its American premiere at The Museum of Modern Art for the benefit of the Museum's Fund for the Preservation of Foreign Films on Tuesday, April 9, at 8:30 p.m. The black-tie benefit screening, which is made possible through the courtesy of Allied Artists, will be followed by a reception. Tickets, \$15 each, are available from the Museum.

BELLE DE JOUR starts its engagement at the Little Carnegie Theatre on April 10.

"Luis Bunuel's latest film, BELLE DE JOUR, beautifully photographed in color and starring Catherine Deneuve is clearly a masterpiece," says Willard Van Dyke, Director of the Department of Film of the Museum. "It is the story of a young married woman's erotic adventures, perhaps imagined, possibly real."

The benefit screening launches the Museum's Fund for the Preservation of Foreign Films. Hundreds of great titles made abroad still must be transferred from the impermanent nitrate stock (used until the 1950s) to the more stable cellulose acetate base stock. Unless they are transferred, these films will disintegrate and be lost forever. With the recently extended help of the American Film Institute, the Museum is now able to assist in the preservation of American-made films, but the preservation of foreign films, including many in the Museum's own Archive, are yet unprotected by the necessary funds.

"Benefits such as the American premiere of BELLE DE JOUR," Willard Van Dyke says, "not only provide desperately needed funds but also help us call attention to the danger of losing an important part of our cultural heritage."

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Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 St., NYC 10019. 245-3200