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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

What is believed to be the first exhibition of its kind ever held in an art museum will go on view Tuesday, December 21, when The Museum of Modern Art, 14 West 49 Street, opens to the public The Making of a Contemporary Film. At the same time the Museum will open an exhibition of modern painting and sculpture including new acquisitions. These two exhibitions will remain on view through January 31, 1938. The current exhibition in the Young People's Gallery will be replaced by an exhibition of drawings by modern European and American artists the first week in January, which will continue through January 31.

The Making of a Contemporary Film is the first major exhibition organized by The Museum of Modern Art Film Library, which was founded in June, 1935, as a department of The Museum of Modern Art. The motion picture used as the basis of the exhibition is the American classic, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, by Mark Twain, which as a book has gone into countless editions since it was first published in 1876. It has had innumerable performances on the legitimate stage, and was produced by Paramount as a silent film in 1917 with Jack Pickford and as a sound film in 1930 with Jackie Coogan. The Ukrain Film, Kiev, has just completed a Russian Tom Sawyer, which has not yet come to this country. The most recent version of the classic, produced by Selznick International Pictures, will be released early in 1938. It is this version that the Film Library is using as material for its exhibition, which will show the step-by-step process of the multiple activities necessary to the production and filming of a modern motion picture.

"The motion picture is the only major art which has originated and developed during the past half century," stated Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of The Museum of Modern Art. "In this exhibition the complex technique of film making is presented as carefully as the Museum would show the technical processes of any of the older arts such as painting, photography, sculpture or architecture. The exhibition will enable the film student or layman to fit together piece by piece the different elements that

go into a contemporary film from original idea to the finished motion picture."

The exhibition has been installed in two large galleries of the Museum under the direction of Allen Porter, Assistant to the Director of the Film Library, and Mary Cooke of the Museum staff. Among the several hundred items in the exhibition are the following:

THE BOOK: First and later editions of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain.

ORIGINAL SCRIPT, by John V. A. Weaver, for the motion picture production.

SCENARIO: Pages from the original scenario and subsequent revisions.

TALENT HUNT: Report of talent scouts sent all over the country to find a new face that would be the right type for Tom Sawyer. More than 25,000 children all over the United States were interviewed and many given screen tests.

RESEARCH MATERIAL: Photographs and data on local history, architecture, trades, costumes, social customs, speech and current superstitions. Some of the facts ascertained by the research department: tin cans made by hand were used in 1845, the period of the story; chewing gum was used although it was more often referred to as cherry gum, black spruce, tamarck or peach gum.

PRODUCTION CHARTS and data, showing day-by-day cost of production, daily location of all members of production units including cast, camera men, etc., costume charts for every member of cast and extras, inter-office notes, giving suggestions and instructions regarding the progress of the film, etc.

CENSORSHIP: Correspondence with Hays office on such subjects as the permissability of "long shots" of the swimming hole showing boys apparently nude; use of the word "Lord," referring to the Deity; the racial question involved in Tom going in swimming with a little Negro boy, etc.

FINAL SHOOTING SCRIPT with additional dialogue, music cues, and incidental sound effects.

MAKE-UP: Two little-girl heads modelled by Cora Scovill with make-up by Elizabeth Arden showing difference between make-up necessary for black-and-white motion picture photography and technicolor.

COSTUMES

STILLS AND PRODUCTION SHOTS

SNEAK PREVIEW: Reports from first showing in an obscure motion picture house.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, produced in technicolor by David O. Selznick, has been directed by Norman Taurog, with Tommy Kelly as Tom Sawyer; Ann Gillis as Becky Thatcher, the object of Tom's affections; and Tom's Aunt Polly played by May Robson. Other featured players are Jackie Moran and Walter Brennan.