

The Museum of Modern Art

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MUSEUM HEAD ON YUGOSLAVIAN MISSION TO FIND FILMS FOR RETROSPECTIVE SHOWING

Willard Van Dyke, Director of The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film, is on a mission in Yugoslavia to select motion pictures for a retrospective to be shown this fall at the Museum in New York. Mr. Van Dyke, who just attended a meeting in Paris of The Executive Committee of the International Federation of Film Archives, will spend the next three weeks in Belgrade and Zagreb. From February 9 to March 1, he was in Austria where he served as Chairman of the Salzburg Seminar in American Studies devoted to American motion pictures.

While in Yugoslavia, Mr. Van Dyke will speak at the American Embassy on American film techniques for an audience of Yugoslavian directors, cameramen, writers, and actors.

The mutual interest of Yugoslavian film-makers in our product and of Americans in Yugoslavian work seems to coincide at this time, Mr. Van Dyke pointed out before his departure. "The few Yugoslavian films that have been shown here," he said, "such as 'The Telephone Operator,' 'I'll Kill You,' 'I Never Met a Happy Gypsy,' and 'War Games,' promise a newly burgeoning cinema industry and art in that country."

"The curiosity about films from the middle European countries continues to be extremely high among American film-goers and critics," Mr. Van Dyke says, recalling that Polish, Czech, Yugoslavian, and Bulgarian films have been shown at The Museum of Modern Art.

Formerly American distributors could see new foreign films only at festivals held abroad at great personal expense and without the benefit of the reactions of an American audience. National film festivals have now become a regular part of The Museum of Modern Art program, which recently has included New Cinema from Holland, Brazil, Bulgaria, and Canada. By concentrating on the recent films from one country, the Museum provides the American public with the opportunity to become familiar with the particular

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talents, techniques, and viewpoints of that country's film-makers.

As a service to both the American public and the American film industry, the Museum hopes to act as a catalyst in arousing interest in the film experiments of many countries and to help American distributors disseminate them through theatrical channels.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Lillian Gerard, Film Coordinator, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.