

The Museum of Modern Art

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FIFTEEN ELIA KAZAN FILMS TO BE SHOWN AT MUSEUM SIX KAZAN FILMS DONATED TO PERMANENT ARCHIVES

"A Face in the Crowd" (1957), the scathing and still timely study of the rise to fame and power of a television personality, will inaugurate "The Films of Elia Kazan," a two-week program of the director's work, Thursday, January 28, 8:00 p.m., at The Museum of Modern Art. Mr. Kazan, who will be present to introduce the picture, is donating prints of "A Face in the Crowd" and "Baby Doll" to the Department of Film's Permanent Collection. In addition, Warner Brothers is giving the Museum copies of four other Kazan pictures: "East of Eden," "Splendor in the Grass," "The Arrangement" and "America, America." All six gifts will be among the 15 films included in the Museum's program.

Elia Kazan is one of a small group of directors including, more recently, Mike Nichols, who have enjoyed critical and popular success in both the theatre and motion pictures. Born in Turkey of Greek parents in 1909, he came to New York four years later and was educated in New York City, New Rochelle and at Williams College. After Williams, he attended Yale Drama School and in 1933 he joined the Group Theatre, a group of actors and playwrights concerned with the creation of a vital American Theatre. The Group included Franchot Tone, Stella Adler, Lee J. Cobb, Sam Jaffe, Van Heflin, Clifford Odets and William Saroyan.

Before the Group Theatre folded in 1941, Kazan had acted in "Waiting for Lefty," "Golden Boy," and several other plays of note. His interest in directing found an outlet in the play "Cafe Crown," which was followed by Thornton Wilder's "Skin of Our Teeth." For his direction of the latter, Kazan won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award in 1942. He has continued to work in the theatre over the years, even while directing films prolifically, and among his stage credits are "A Streetcar Named Desire," "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," "The Dark at the Top of the Stairs," "Sweet Bird of Youth" and "After the Fall." In addition, he co-founded the Actors' Studio

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with Lee Strasberg and Cheryl Crawford.

Kazan's first major film credit was "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," the 1945 drama of the life of a poor Brooklyn family. The picture was praised for its realism, which has been a trademark of Kazan's films. In a Cahiers du Cinema interview, Kazan said, "What I like is to render certain experiences of life, as I see them, as I think it is necessary to render them." He is also noted for his collaboration with gifted writers, particularly Tennessee Williams, William Inge, Arthur Miller and Budd Schulberg.

One of his most notable films was Academy Award winner "On the Waterfront" (1954), with Marlon Brando, Eva Marie Saint, Karl Malden and Lee J. Cobb, written by Schulberg. This drama of life on the New York docks was called "an uncommonly powerful, exciting and imaginative use of the screen by gifted professionals," by Bosley Crowther, erstwhile film critic of The New York Times. The film was so realistic, in fact, that during the filming Kazan and his crew were intimidated by hoodlums.

"Gentleman's Agreement" (1947) also reflects Kazan's interest in controversial issues. Gregory Peck played the lead in this study of Anti-Semitism, which was banned from distribution in Spain on moral grounds. Bosley Crowther called it "a sizzling film (which should) bring an ugly and disturbing issue to light."

Included in the Museum's film tribute are two works written by Tennessee Williams, "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "Baby Doll," and John Steinbeck's "East of Eden" and "Viva Zapata." Also to be shown are Kazan's two most recent films-- "America, America" (1964) and "The Arrangement" (1969)--both of which he wrote, produced and directed.

The complete schedule follows. All films are directed by Elia Kazan.

Thursday, January 28 (8:00)

A FACE IN THE CROWD (1957). Screenplay by Budd Schulberg. With Andy Griffith, Patricia Neal, Lee Remick, Walter Matthau. Courtesy of Charlou Productions. 125 min.
NOTE: Mr. Kazan will be present to introduce the program.

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Friday, January 29 (2:00, 5:30)

A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN (1945). With Dorothy McGuire, James Dunn, Joan Blondell. Courtesy of Films, Inc. 128 min.

Saturday, January 30 (3:00, 5:30)

BOOMERANG (1947). With Dana Andrews, Jane Wyatt. Courtesy of Films, Inc. 88 min.

Sunday, January 31 (2:00, 5:30)

PANIC IN THE STREETS (1950). With Richard Widmark, Paul Douglas. Courtesy of Films, Inc. and 20th Century Fox. 96 min.

Monday, February 1 (1:30)

PANIC IN THE STREETS (see Sunday, January 31)

Wednesday, February 3 (2:00, 5:30)

PINKY (1949). With Jeanne Crain, Ethel Barrymore. Courtesy of 20th Century Fox and Films, Inc. 102 min.

Thursday, February 4

(2:00, 5:30) VIVA ZAPATA (1952). Screenplay by John Steinbeck. With Marlon Brando, Anthony Quinn. Courtesy of 20th Century Fox and Films, Inc. 113 min.

(8:00) GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT (1947). With Gregory Peck. Courtesy of Films Inc. 118 min.

Friday, February 5 (2:00, 5:30)

ON THE WATERFRONT (1954). Screenplay by Budd Schulberg. With Marlon Brando, Eva Marie Saint, Lee J. Cobb. Courtesy of Columbia Pictures. 108 min.

Saturday, February 6 (3:00, 5:30)

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE (1951). Screenplay by Tennessee Williams from his play. With Marlon Brando, Vivien Leigh. Courtesy of United Artists. 122 min.

Sunday, February 7 (2:00, 5:30)

WILD RIVER (1960). With Montgomery Clift, Lee Remick. Courtesy of Films, Inc. 105 min.

Monday, February 8 (1:30)

BABY DOLL (1956). Screenplay by Kazan from two plays by Tennessee Williams. With Karl Malden, Carroll Baker, Eli Wallach. Courtesy of Cinemation Industries. 114 min.

Tuesday, February 9 (5:30)

BABY DOLL (see Monday, February 8).

Wednesday, February 10 (2:00, 5:30)

EAST OF EDEN (1955). With James Dean, Julie Harris. Courtesy of Warner Bros. 115 min.

Thursday, February 11

(2:00, 5:30) SPLENDOR IN THE GRASS (1961). Screenplay by William Inge. With Natalie Wood, Warren Beatty. Courtesy of Warner Bros. 124 min.

(8:00) THE ARRANGEMENT (1969). With Kirk Douglas, Faye Dunaway. Courtesy of Warner Bros.

Friday, February 12 (2:00, 5:30)

AMERICA, AMERICA (1964). With Stathis Giallelis, Frank Wolff. Courtesy of Warner Bros. 174 min.

Additional information available from Lillian Gerard, Film Coordinator, and Mark Segal, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, New York 10019. Tel: (212) 956-7296.