

PIONEER FILM DIRECTOR HONORED BY MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Allan Dwan, at 86 one of America's oldest living directors and with over 400 films to his credit, will be honored with a five-week film retrospective beginning March 4 at The Museum of Modern Art. The series, assembled by Peter Bogdanovich, a filmmaker himself, spans 45 years of the director's career, from the 1912 film "The Fear" to "The River's Edge," a 1957 Western and one of Dwan's last films. Mr. Bogdanovich is the author of the new book Allan Dwan: The Last Pioneer, published by Praeger concurrently with the Museum series.

Allan Dwan has directed such noted stars as Gloria Swanson, Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., Victor McLaglen, Wallace Beery, Shirley Temple and John Wayne. Some of his most well-known pictures, included in the Museum tribute, are "Robin Hood," a 1922 film with Douglas Fairbanks, Sr.; "The Iron Mask" (1929), also starring Fairbanks; "Suez" (1938), the epic with Tyrone Power and Loretta Young; and "The Sands of Iwo Jima" (1949), the war film for which John Wayne received his first Oscar nomination.

Allan Dwan, who has worked in many genres, began his career in motion pictures almost by accident. An engineer, he designed special lights for the Essanay Studio in Chicago and was supervising their use on the set, when he learned that the studio paid \$25 for scripts. He began writing with such success that he was asked to be Essanay's scenario editor. Arriving on a set in Arizona to supply some scripts, he found that the director had left town and was soon notified by Essanay that he was to direct. This was in 1909 and Dwan stayed with the job for more than half a century.

Dwan's early films, such as "Three Million Dollars" (1911), his

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fortieth one-reeler, are technically very simple--each scene is recorded from a fixed position and there is a minimum of cutting. By 1913, however, he felt the influence of D. W. Griffith and began to cut within scenes and introduce much greater flexibility. Dwan himself has acknowledged his debt to Griffith: "The only man I ever watched was Griffith, and I just did what he did. It was a wonderful, successful thing to do." Dwan came up with numerous solutions to technical problems himself, and Bogdanovich credits him with the invention of the dolly shot in 1915.

"Robin Hood" (1922), starring Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., remains one of Dwan's greatest films. Robert E. Sherwood, the playwright, then a film critic, wrote at the time "It represents the high-water mark of film production."

Dwan had a very close association with the two leading stars of the 20s, Fairbanks and Gloria Swanson. "Manhandled," a 1924 film starring Miss Swanson, will be shown at the Museum. It is a comedy romance with an outstanding performance by the leading lady.

While he has always felt that sound detracted from what he considers a uniquely visual medium, Dwan made the transition to talkies with success. Given little opportunity in the mid-thirties to work with superior material, the success of two Shirley Temple films he directed--"Heidi" and "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm"--led to his assignment to direct "Suez," a 1938 adventure story built around the construction of the Suez Canal, and a film which remains one of his best. After making a number of successful comedies in the forties, he switched genres with his usual ability and closed out the decade with the successful "The Sands of Iwo Jima," a war film starring John Wayne.

Dwan continued working actively until the early 60s. His films are marked by expressive but unpretentious camera work; a sense of humor which pokes fun at pretense; and a focus on simple people.

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The complete schedule of The Films of Allan Dwan follows. All films are directed by Dwan. Silent films indicated by asterisk.

- Thursday, March 4 (2:00, 5:30): DAVID HARUM* (1915). With William H. Crane, May Allison. Courtesy Eastman House.
- Thursday, March 4 (8:00): DAVID HARUM* and MANHANDLED* (1924). With Gloria Swanson. Courtesy Eastman House.
- Friday, March 5 (2:00, 5:30): STAGE STRUCK* (1925). With Gloria Swanson. Courtesy Eastman House and Paramount Pictures.
- Saturday, March 6 (3:00, 5:30): THE WANDERER* (1912). Courtesy Eastman House. CALAMITY ANNE'S TRUST* (1913). Courtesy Eastman House. THE FEAR* (1912). Courtesy National Film Archives, British Film Institute. A MODERN MUSKETEER* (1917), an excerpt.
- Sunday, March 7 (2:30, 5:30): ROBIN HOOD* (1922). With Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., Wallace Beery.
- Monday, March 8 (12:30): FIGHTING ODDS* (1917). With Maxine Elliot.
- Wednesday, March 10 (2:00, 5:30): FIGHTING ODDS.*
- Thursday, March 11 (2:00, 5:30): I SPY (1933). With Sally Eilers, Ben Lyon. Courtesy National Film Archives, Britain.
- Thursday, March 11 (8:00): MANHANDLED*. See March 4.
- Friday, March 12 (2:00, 5:30): STAGE STRUCK*. See March 5.
- Saturday, March 13 (3:00, 5:30): ZAZA* (1923). With Gloria Swanson. Courtesy Library of Congress, American Film Institute and Paramount.
- Sunday, March 14 (2:00, 5:30): WHAT A WIDOW! (1930). With Gloria Swanson. Courtesy Gloria Swanson and Eastman House.
- Monday, March 15 (12:30): MANHANDLED*. See March 4.
- Tuesday, March 16 (5:30): WICKED (1931). With Elissa Landi, Victor McLaglen, Una Merkel. Courtesy 20th Century Fox.
- Wednesday, March 17 (2:00, 5:30): HIGH TENSION (1936). With Brian Donlevy, Glenda Farrell. Courtesy 20th Century Fox.
- Thursday, March 18 (2:00, 5:30): THE JOY GIRL* (1927). With Olive Bordon, Marie Dressler. Courtesy Czechoslovakian Film Archive. Czech titles.
- Thursday, March 18 (8:00): WHILE PARIS SLEEPS (1932). With Victor McLaglen, Helen Mack. Courtesy 20th Century Fox.
- Friday, March 19 (2:00, 5:30): THE THREE MUSKETEERS (1939). With Don Ameche, Gloria Stuart. Courtesy 20th Century Fox.
- Saturday, March 20 (3:00, 5:30): THE IRON MASK* (1929). With Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., Marguerite de la Motte.
- Sunday, March 21 (2:30, 5:30): CHANCES (1931). With Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. Courtesy Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.
- Monday, March 22 (12:30): WICKED. See March 16.
- Wednesday, March 24 (2:00, 5:30): THE BLACK SHEEP (1935). With Edmund Lowe, Claire Trevor. Courtesy 20th Century Fox.
- Thursday, March 25 (2:00): WHILE PARIS SLEEPS. See March 18.
- Thursday, March 25 (5:30, 8:00): SUEZ (1938). With Tyrone Power, Loretta Young. Courtesy 20th Century Fox.
- Friday, March 26 (2:00, 5:30): TRAIL OF THE VIGILANTES (1940). With Franchot Tone, Broderick Crawford.
- Saturday, March 27 (3:00, 5:30): HEIDI (1937). With Shirley Temple. Courtesy 20th Century Fox.
- Sunday, March 28 (2:00, 5:30): REBECCA OF SUNNYBROOK FARM (1938). With Shirley Temple. Courtesy 20th Century Fox.
- Monday, March 29 (12:30): 15 MAIDEN LANE (1936). With Claire Trevor, Cesar Romero. Courtesy Ivy Film/16 mm.
- Tuesday, March 30 (5:30): UP IN MABEL'S ROOM (1944). With Dennis O'Keefe. Courtesy American Continental.

Wednesday, March 31 (2:00, 5:30): GETTING GERTIE'S GARTER (1945).
 With Dennis O'Keefe, Marie McDonald. Courtesy American Continental

Thursday, April 1 (2:00, 5:30): RENDEZVOUS WITH ANNIE (1946). With
 Eddie Albert. Courtesy Ivy Film/16mm.

Friday, April 2 (2:00, 5:30): FRONTIER MARSHAL(1938). With Randolph
 Scott. Courtesy 20th Century Fox.

Saturday, April 3 (3:00, 5:30): THE SANDS OF IWO JIMA (1949). With
 John Wayne. Courtesy Ivy Film/16mm.

Sunday, April 4 (2:30, 5:30): THE RIVER'S EDGE (1957). With Ray
 Milland, Anthony Quinn. Courtesy 20th Century Fox and Warner Bros.

Monday, April 5 (12:30): THE INSIDE STORY (1948). With William
 Lundigan. Courtesy Ivy Film/16mm.

Wednesday, April 7 (2:00, 5:30): BREWSTER'S MILLIONS (1945). With
 Dennis O'Keefe. Courtesy American Continental.

Thursday, April 8 (2:00, 5:30): WOMAN THEY ALMOST LYNCHED (1952).
 With Audrey Totter, Brian Donlevy. Courtesy Ivy Film/16mm.

Friday, April 9 (2:00): DRIFTWOOD (1947). With Walter Brennan, Dean
 Jagger. Courtesy Ivy Film/16mm.

Friday, April 9 (5:30): SILVER LODE (1954). With John Payne, Dan
 Duryea. Courtesy Ivy Film/16mm.

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