

# The Museum of Modern Art

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## MUSEUM REVISITS THE YEAR 1922 IN FILMS

What was it like to go to the movies 50 years ago? "The Year 1922," a two-week film series beginning March 2 at The Museum of Modern Art, will include 17 shorts, newsreels and features made and shown throughout the world that year, and selected from the Museum's Film Archive by Donald Richie, Curator of Film.

1922 witnessed the rise of Mussolini, the failure of the League of Nations, and the appearance of Joyce's Ulysses and Eliot's The Wasteland. It was the Age of the Flapper and of the "return to normalcy" under Warren G. Harding. In film, Dziga Vertov was shooting his first newsreels in the new Soviet state, far from the complacent prosperity of the United States. Walt Disney was making his earliest cartoons and masters such as D. W. Griffith, F. W. Murnau, Erich von Stroheim, Fritz Lang and Robert Flaherty were all producing major works. Harold Lloyd and Stan Laurel were making people laugh, Rudolph Valentino was making them swoon, and Douglas Fairbanks and Tom Mix were keeping film-goers on the edges of their seats.

Among the films in the Museum program are Griffith's "Orphans of the Storm," featuring Lillian and Dorothy Gish, and the turbulent spectacle of the French Revolution; Stroheim's "Foolish Wives," a study of the end of an era in Europe starring Mae Busch and Stroheim as characters in a world of decayed aristocracy and wealthy, gullible Americans; and Fred Niblo's "Blood and Sand," a vehicle for Valentino, complete with bullfighting and a vamp (Nita Naldi).

"Robin Hood," directed by Allan Dwan, was Douglas Fairbanks' version of the legend, as Fairbanks not only played the title role, but also wrote the screenplay under a pseudonym. Tom Mix, another film hero of the twenties, is represented in the Museum series by "Sky High," in which he plays a U. S. immigration inspector trying to outwit a gang involved in smuggling Chinese laborers.

From Germany during 1922 came Fritz Lang's "Doktor Mabuse," a story of a magnetic criminal in which Lang attacked the atmosphere of crime and perversion in Germany in the 20s. Like "Bonnie and Clyde," the film has been accused of glorifying its insidious protagonist. Also from Germany was "Nosferatu," F. W. Murnau's now classic version of the Dracula legend, noted

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in its time for the camera tricks used to evoke the supernatural.

"The Year 1922" also includes two major examples of the documentary mode. Robert Flaherty's landmark film "Nanook of the North," filmed in the Hudson Bay Territory, is a remarkable study of survival in a hostile environment. Dziga Vertov was offering another approach to the documentary in his "Kino Pravda" newsreels. In these films on the development of the Soviet Union, Vertov attempted to organize his visual material in patterns approximating sensory experience.

Also included in the Museum series are: "Grandma's Boy," with Harold Lloyd; "The Pest," an early Stan Laurel film; "The Duck Hunter," with Billy Bevan; "The Four Musicians of Bremen," an early Disney cartoon; "Broken Chains," a drama with Colleen Moore; "The Enchanted City"; an excerpt from "Salome," with Alla Nazimova; and a newsreel on the first flight from North to South America.

The schedule follows. All films were made in 1922 and are silent.

- Thur, Mar 2 (2:00, 5:30): FIRST FLIGHT FROM NORTH TO SOUTH AMERICA. 9 min. THE PEST. With Stan Laurel. 20 min. SKY HIGH. With Tom Mix. 65 min. (8:00): FOOLISH WIVES. By Erich Von Stroheim. With Mae Busch and Stroheim. 112 min.
- Fri, Mar 3 (2:00, 5:30): THE FOUR MUSICIANS OF BREMEN. By Walt Disney. 7 min. BROKEN CHAINS. By Allen Holubar. With Colleen Moore. 63 min.
- Sat, Mar 4 (3:00): ORPHANS OF THE STORM. By D.W. Griffith. With Lillian and Dorothy Gish. 160 min.
- Sun, Mar 5 (3:00, 5:30): KINO PRAVDA (excerpts). By Dziga Vertov. 12 min. NANOOK OF THE NORTH. By Robert Flaherty. 60 min.
- Mon, Mar 6 (Noon): THE ENCHANTED CITY. By Warren A. Newcombe. 9 min. NOSFERATU. By F.W. Murnau. 95 min.
- Tues, Mar 7 (5:30): SKY HIGH. With Tom Mix. 65 min.
- Wed, Mar 8 (2:00, 5:30): THE DUCK HUNTER. With Billy Bevan. 21 min. GRANDMA'S BOY. With Harold Lloyd. ca. 50 min.
- Thur, Mar 9 (2:00): FOOLISH WIVES. By Erich von Stroheim. With Mae Busch and Stroheim. 112 min. (5:30): ORPHANS OF THE STORM. By D.W. Griffith. With Lillian and Dorothy Gish. 160 min.
- Fri, Mar 10 (2:00, 5:30): THE DUCK HUNTER. With Billy Bevan. 21 min. SALOME (excerpt). By Charles Bryant. With Alla Nazimova. 11 min. THE PEST. With Stan Laurel. 20 min.
- Sat, Mar 11 (3:00): FIRST FLIGHT FROM NORTH TO SOUTH AMERICA. 9 min. THE ENCHANTED CITY. By Warren A. Newcombe. 9 min. BLOOD AND SAND. By Fred Niblo. With Rudolph Valentino. 100 min.
- Sun, Mar 12 (3:00): ROBIN HOOD. By Allan Dwan. With Douglas Fairbanks. 128 min.
- Mon, Mar 13 (Noon): DOKTOR MABUSE. By Fritz Lang. 100 min.
- Wed, Mar 15 (2:00): DOKTOR MABUSE. By Fritz Lang. 100 min. (5:30): THE ENCHANTED CITY. By Warren A. Newcombe. 9 min. NOSFERATU. By F.W. Murnau. 95 min.

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