

# The Museum of Modern Art

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NO. 34  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## RAOUL WALSH TO ATTEND OPENING OF RETROSPECTIVE TRIBUTE AT MUSEUM

Raoul Walsh, 87-year-old film director whose career in motion pictures spanned more than five decades, will come to New York for the opening of a three-month retrospective of his films beginning Thursday, April 18, at The Museum of Modern Art. In a rare public appearance Mr. Walsh will attend the 8 pm screening of "Gentleman Jim," his 1942 film in which Errol Flynn portrays the boxing champion James J. Corbett.

One of the giants of American filmdom, Walsh has worked in all genres -- Westerns, gangster films, war pictures, adventure films, musicals -- and with many of Hollywood's greatest stars -- Victor McLaglen, Gloria Swanson, Douglas Fairbanks, Mae West, James Cagney, Humphrey Bogart, Marlene Dietrich and Edward G. Robinson, to name just a few. It is ultimately as a director of action pictures that Walsh is best known and a growing body of critical opinion places him in the front rank with directors like Ford, Hawks, Curtiz and Wellman. Richard Schickel has called him "one of the best action directors...we've ever had" and British film critic Julian Fox has written: "Raoul Walsh, more than any other legendary figure from Hollywood's golden past, has truly lived up to the early cinema's reputation for 'action all the way'...."

Walsh's penchant for action is not surprising considering he began his career more than 60 years ago as a stunt-rider in early "westerns" filmed in the New Jersey hills. D. W. Griffith saw Walsh in one of these roles and took him to California in 1910. Walsh played John Wilkes Booth in "Birth of a Nation" and continued to act periodically until he sustained an eye injury while playing the

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Cisco Kid in his film "In Old Arizona" in 1929. He began assisting Griffith with directorial duties shortly after their arrival in California and Walsh helped direct "The Life of General Villa" (1912), which he also wrote and in which he acted. One of the participants in this semi-documentary was Villa himself.

Of his career as an actor, Walsh has said: "As an actor I was a real ham, not any good. I didn't want any part of it, really; I wanted to get into directing." After "The Life of General Villa" he directed a string of two-reelers before making "The Regeneration" (1915), a realistic depiction of tenement life on New York's Lower East Side. Four years later he directed a version of Longfellow's poem "Evangeline." Praised by critics, the picture was not a commercial success. "I decided then to play to Main Street and to hell with art," Walsh has said.

Walsh's popularity declined in the early 1920s but in 1924 he came back with the successful "The Thief of Bagdad" starring Douglas Fairbanks. Julian Fox considers this spectacle of swashbuckling adventure "probably the most truly magical entertainment of the whole silent era." Walsh's biggest commercial success of the 20s came two years later with "What Price Glory?", from the Broadway hit by Laurence Stallings and Maxwell Anderson. Though it contained some excitingly staged battle scenes as well as moments of tragedy, it revolved around the often humorous rivalry between two brawling marines who were portrayed by Edmund Lowe and Victor McLaglen. The pairing of Lowe and McLaglen was so successful that they appeared in several Walsh-directed sequels, "The Cock-Eyed World" (1929), "Women of All Nations" (1931), and "Under Pressure" (1935), all of which are included in the Museum's program.

In 1928 Walsh directed Gloria Swanson in "Sadie Thompson," from the Maughan story of a prostitute adrift in the tropics and a man of the cloth (Lionel Barrymore) who secretly covets her. Walsh made his last appearance as an actor

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in this picture, playing the part of an American marine. Gloria Swanson has recalled: "I had better luck with 'Sadie' than any other movie star because I had the advantage of making a good silent of it. If you have to censor Sadie's language, how can you really portray her?" While the inter-titles were discreet, the game of reading the star's lips was known as the "cuss-word puzzle" according to Kevin Brownlow.

Walsh's first talkie was "In Old Arizona" (1929), filmed entirely on location in Zion County, Utah. After injuring his eye Walsh stepped down from the role of the Cisco Kid and his replacement, Warner Baxter, subsequently won an Oscar for the portrayal. Two years later he made "The Yellow Ticket," set in Czarist Russia in 1913, a strongly anti-Russian adventure of a young woman forced into prostitution due to the social ills of her country.

Among Walsh's many later successes were "The Roaring Twenties" (1939), with James Cagney and Humphrey Bogart as rival bootleggers during Prohibition; "They Drive by Night" (1940), starring Bogart and George Raft as long-distance truckers and featuring Ida Lupino in a performance which earned her a seven-year contract with Warners; "High Sierra" (1941), with Bogart as a disillusioned gangster planning one last job; "Objective Burma" (1945), a war film starring Errol Flynn which aroused British ire due to its exaggeration of the American war effort in Burma; "White Heat" (1949), featuring Cagney in a brilliant portrayal of a psychopathic killer; and "A Lion Is in the Streets" (1953), a drama about the rise and corruption of a Southern politician, with Cagney as the Huey Long-inspired character.

In addition to Walsh's own pictures, the Museum will present a documentary on Walsh written, produced and directed by film critic Richard Schickel. The

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90-minute portrait of Walsh will be shown two consecutive Wednesdays, April 17 and 24, at noon, and two Thursdays, April 18 and 25, at 2 pm. The director's autobiography, Each Man in His Time, will be published in August by Farrar Straus and Giroux.

The Walsh retrospective has been organized by Larry Kardish, Assistant Curator of Film. Several films in the series -- "The Cock-Eyed World," "The Red Dance," "In Old Arizona," "What Price Glory?", "The Yellow Ticket" and "The Man Who Came Back" -- have been preserved as the result of an ongoing agreement between the Museum and 20th Century-Fox by which that company gives the Museum access to its early films for the purpose of selecting, transferring from nitrate to tri-acetate, and storing pictures which might otherwise be lost.

The schedule is attached.

April 1974

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Additional information available from Mark Segal, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019.  
Phone: (212) 956-7296.  
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RAOUL WALSH

April 17 - July 11, 1974

## Schedule

Wednesday, April 17, Noon. RAOUL WALSH. 1973. Written, directed and produced by Richard Schickel. 90 minutes.

Thursday, April 18, 2:00. RAOUL WALSH (see Fri, April 17, Noon)

Thursday, April 18, 8:00. THE LITTLE COUNTRY MOUSE\*\* 1913. Supervised by D.W. Griffith. With Blanche Sweet, Raoul Walsh. ca 9 minutes. GENTLEMAN JIM. 1942. With Errol Flynn, Alexis Smith. (United Artists). 104 minutes. Mr. Walsh will be present at this screening.

Friday, April 19, 2:00. THE WANDERER\*\* 1926. With Greta Nissen, Ernest Torrence. French intertitles. (~~Cinematheque~~ Royale de Belgique). ca 60 minutes.

Friday, April 19, 5:30. KINDRED OF THE DUST\* 1922. With Miriam Cooper. (George Eastman House). ca 80 minutes.

Saturday, April 20, 3:00:KINDRED OF THE DUST\*\* (see Fri, April 19, 5:30)

Saturday, April 20, 5:30.THE WANDERER\* (see Fri, April 19, 2:00)

Sunday, April 21, 5:30. THE LUCKY LADY\* 1926.With Greta Nissen, Lionel Barrymore. (American Film Institute Collection). ca 70 minutes.

Monday, April 22, 2:00. THE LUCKY LADY\*\* (see Sun, April 21, 5:30)

Monday, April 22, 5:30. THE LOVES OF CARMEN\* 1927. With Dolores Del Rio. Czechoslovakian intertitles. ca 80 minutes.

Wednesday, April 24, Noon. RAOUL WALSH. (see Weds, April 17, Noon)

Thursday, April 25, 2:00. RAOUL WALSH. (see Weds, April 17, Noon)

Thursday, April 25, 5:30. THE RED DANCE\*\* 1928. With Dolores Del Rio, Charles Farrell. ca 100 minutes.

Thursday, April 25, 8:00. MISS SADIE THOMPSON\* 1928. With Gloria Swanson, Lionel Barrymore, Raoul Walsh. (George Eastman House). final reel missing ca 80 minutes.

Friday, April 26, 2:00. THE LOVES OF CARMEN\*\*. (see Mon, April 22, 5:30)

Friday, April 26, 5:30. THE RED DANCE\*. (see Thurs, April 25, 5:30)

Saturday, April 27, 3:00. IN OLD ARIZONA. 1929. With Warner Baxter. 68 minutes.

Saturday, April 27, 5:30. MISS SADIE THOMPSON\*\* (see Thurs, April 25, 8:00)

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- Sunday, April 28, 5:30. THE MONKEY TALKS\* 1927. With Don Alvarado. (George Eastman House). ca 65 minutes.
- Monday, April 29, 2:00. THE MONKEY TALKS\*\* (see Sun, April 28, 5:30)
- Monday, April 29, 5:30. THE THIEF OF BAGDAD\* 1924. With Douglas Fairbanks, Anna May Wong. (Paul Killiam). ca 135 minutes.
- Tuesday, April 30, 5:30. IN OLD ARIZONA. (see Sat, April 27, 3:00)
- Thursday, May 2, 5:30. THE COCK-EYED WORLD. 1929. With Victor McLaglen, Edmund Lowe. 115 minutes.
- Thursday, May 2, 8:00. WHAT PRICE GLORY? 1926. With Victor McLaglen, Edmund Lowe, Dolores Del Rio. Original piano score by William Perry on print. (Paul Killiam). 121 minutes.
- Friday, May 3, 2:00. THE THIEF OF BAGDAD\*\* (see Mon, April 29, 5:30)
- Saturday, May 4, 3:00. WOMEN OF ALL NATIONS. 1931. With Victor McLaglen, Edmund Lowe, Greta Nissen, Humphrey Bogart. (20th Century-Fox). 72 minutes.
- Saturday, May 4, 5:30. THE COCK-EYED WORLD. (see Thurs, May 2, 5:30)
- Sunday, May 5, 5:30. WHAT PRICE GLORY? (see Thurs, May 2, 5:30)
- Monday, May 6, 2:00. WOMEN OF ALL NATIONS. (see Sat, May 4, 3:00)
- Monday, May 6, 5:30. THE MAN WHO CAME BACK. 1931. With Janet Gaynor, Charles Farrell. 74 minutes.
- Tuesday, May 7, 5:30. THE BIG TRAIL. 1930. With John Wayne, El Brendel. (original running time 125 minutes) ca 110 minutes.
- Thursday, May 9, 5:30. THE YELLOW TICKET. 1931. With Elissa Landi, Laurence Olivier, Lionel Barrymore. 85 minutes.
- Thursday, May 9, 8:00. WILD GIRL. 1932. With Joan Bennett, Ralph Bellamy, Charles Farrell. 78minutes.
- Friday, May 10, 2:00. IN OLD ARIZONA. (see Sat, April 27, 3:00)
- Saturday, May 11, 3:00. THE YELLOW TICKET. (see Thurs, May 9, 8:00)
- Saturday, May 11, 5:30. THE MAN WHO CAME BACK. (see Mon, May 6, 5:30)
- Sunday, May 12, 5:30. WILD GIRL. (see Thurs, May 9, 8:00)
- Monday, May 13, 2:00. THE BIG TRAIL. (see Tues, May 7, 5:30)
- Monday, May 13, 5:30. ME AND MY GAL. (PIER 13). 1932. With Spencer Tracy, Joan Bennett. 78 minutes.

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Thursday, May 16, 5:30. SAILOR'S LUCK. 1933. With James Dunn, Sally Eilers. 78 minutes.

Thursday, May 16, 8:00. THE BOWERY. 1933. With Wallace Beery, George Raft, Jackie Cooper. (20th Century-Fox & Warner Bros. TV). 90 minutes.

Friday, May 17, 2:00. THE ROARING TWENTIES. 1939. With James Cagney, Humphrey Bogart, Priscilla Lane. 106 minutes.

Saturday, May 18, 3:00. THE BOWERY. (see Thurs, May 16, 8:00)

Saturday, May 18, 5:30. ME AND MY GAL. (see Mon, May 13, 5:30)

Sunday, May 19, 5:30. SAILOR'S LUCK. (see Thurs, May 16, 5:30)

Monday, May 20, 2:00. UNDER PRESSURE. 1935. With Victor McLaglen, Edmund Lowe, Marjorie Rambeau. 72 minutes.

Monday, May 20, 5:30. GOING HOLLYWOOD. 1933. With Marion Davies, Bing Crosby, Fifi Dorsay, Patsy Kelly. (Films Inc.). 80 minutes.

Tuesday, May 21, 5:30. UNDER PRESSURE. (see Mon, May 20, 2:00)

Thursday, May 23, 5:30. BABY FACE HARRINGTON. 1935. With Charles Butterworth, Una Merkel. (Films Inc.). 61 minutes.

Thursday, May 23, 8:00. GOING HOLLYWOOD. (see Mon, May 20, 5:30)

Friday, May 24, 2:00. BABY FACE HARRINGTON. (see Thurs, May 23, 5:30)

Saturday, May 25, 3:00. THE LOVES OF CARMEN\*\* (see Mon, April 22, 5:30)

Saturday, May 25, 5:30. WHEN THIEF MEETS THIEF. (JUMP FOR GLORY). 1937. Great Britain. With Douglas Fairbanks Jr, Valerie Hobson. original running time 90 min. 60 minutes.

Sunday, May 26, 5:30. HITTING A NEW HIGH. 1937. With Lily Pons, Edward Everett Horton, Jack Oakie. 85 minutes.

Monday, May 27, 2:00. THE MAN I LOVE. 1946. With Ida Lupino, Robert Alda. (United Artists). 96 minutes.

Monday, May 27, 5:30. THE ROARING TWENTIES. (see Fri, May 17, 2:00)

Thursday, May 30, 5:30. DARK COMMAND. 1940. With John Wayne, Roy Rogers, Claire Trevor. (Ivy Film). 93 minutes.

Thursday, May 30, 8:00. THEY DRIVE BY NIGHT. 1940. With Ann Sheridan, George Raft, Ida Lupino, Humphrey Bogart. (United Artists). 95 minutes.

Friday, May 31, 2:00. DARK COMMAND. (see Thurs, May 30, 5:30)

Saturday, June 1, 3:00. THE MAN I LOVE. (see Mon, May 27, 2:00)

Saturday, June 1, 5:30. FIGHTER SQUADRON. 1948. With Edmund O'Brien, Robert Stack. (United Artists). 96 minutes.

- Sunday, June 2, 5:30. THE HORN BLOWS AT MIDNIGHT. 1945. With Jack Benny, Alexis Smith. (United Artists). 80 minutes.
- Monday, June 3, 2:00. UNCERTAIN GLORY. 1944. With Errol Flynn, Paul Lukas, Jean Sullivan. (United Artists). 102 minutes.
- Monday, June 3, 5:30. HIGH SIERRA. 1941. With Ida Lupino, Humphrey Bogart. (United Artists). 110 minutes.
- Tuesday, June 4, 5:30. THEY DIED WITH THEIR BOOTS ON. 1942. With Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland. (United Artists). 138 minutes.
- Thursday, June 6, 5:30. THE STRAWBERRY BLONDE. 1941. With Rita Hayworth, James Cagney, Olivia de Havilland, Jack Carson. (United Artists). 99 minutes.
- Thursday, June 6, 8:00. ONE SUNDAY AFTERNOON. 1948. With Dennis Morgan, Janis Paige, Dorothy Malone. (United Artists). 90 minutes.
- Friday, June 7, 2:00. COLORADO TERRITORY. 1949. With Joel McCrea, Virginia Mayo, Dorothy Malone. (United Artists). 94 minutes.
- Saturday, June 8, 3:00. MANPOWER. 1941. With Edward G. Robinson, George Raft, Marlene Dietrich. (United Artists). 104 minutes.
- Saturday, June 8, 5:30. COLORADO TERRITORY. (see Fri, June 7, 2:00)
- Sunday, June 9, 5:30. NORTHERN PURSUIT. 1943. With Errol Flynn, Helmut Dantine. (United Artists). 94 minutes.
- Monday, June 10, 2:00. DESPERATE JOURNEY. 1942. With Errol Flynn, Ronald Reagan. (United Artists). 109 minutes.
- Monday, June 10, 5:30. OBJECTIVE BURMA. 1945. With Errol Flynn, George Tobias, William Prince, James Brown. (United Artists). 142 minutes.
- Thursday, June 13, 5:30. DISTANT DRUMS. 1951. With Gary Cooper. (Richard Feiner Inc. & American-International). 101 minutes.
- Thursday, June 13, 8:00. OBJECTIVE BURMA. (see Thurs, June 10, 5:30)
- Friday, June 14, 2:00. PURSUED. 1947. With Teresa Wright, Robert Mitchum, Judith Anderson. (Richard Feiner Inc. & American-International Pictures). 101 minutes.
- Saturday, June 15, 3:00. DISTANT DRUMS. (see Thurs. June 13, 5:30)
- Saturday, June 15, 5:30. PURSUED. (see Fri, June 14, 2:00)
- Sunday, June 16, 5:30. WHITE HEAT. 1949. With James Cagney, Virginia Mayo, Edmund O'Brien. (United Artists). 114 minutes.
- Monday, June 17, 2:00. BACKGROUND TO DANGER. 1943. With George Raft, Sydney Greenstreet, Peter Lorre. (United Artists). 80 minutes.
- Monday, June 17, 5:30. GENTLEMAN JIM. (see Thurs, April 18, 8:00)

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Tuesday, June 18, 5:30. CHEYENNE. (THE WYOMING KID). 1947. With Dennis Morgan, Janis Paige, Jane Wyman. (United Artists). 100 minutes.

Thursday, June 20, 5:30. SILVER RIVER. 1948. With Errol Flynn, Ann Sheridan. (United Artists). 110 minutes.

Thursday, June 20, 8:00. THE ENFORCER. 1951. Direction credited to Bretnaine Windust; Raoul Walsh is regarded as director. With Humphrey Bogart. (Richard Feiner Inc. & American-International Pictures). 87 minutes.

Friday, June 21, 2:00. CAPTAIN HORATIO HORNBLOWER. 1951. With Gregory Peck, Virginia Mayo, Robert Beatty. (Warner Bros). 117 minutes.

Saturday, June 22, 3:00. ALONG THE GREAT DIVIDE. 1951. With Kirk Douglas, Virginia Mayo, Walter Brennan. (Warner Bros). 88 minutes.

Saturday, June 22, 5:30. CAPTAIN HORATIO HORNBLOWER. (see Fri, June 21, 2:00)

Sunday, June 23, 5:30. THE REVOLT OF MAMIE STOVER. 1956. With Jane Russell, Richard Egan, Agnes Moorehead. (20th Century-Fox). 93 minutes.

Monday, June 24, 2:00. GLORY ALLEY. 1952. With Ralph Meeker, Leslie Caron, Kurt Kasznar. (Films Inc). 79 minutes.

Monday, June 24, 5:30. SEA DEVILS. 1953. With Yvonne de Carlo, Rock Hudson. (Films Inc). 90 minutes.

Thursday, June 27, 5:30. A LION IS IN THE STREETS. 1953. With James Cagney, Barbara Hale, Lon Chaney. 88 minutes.

Thursday, June 27, 8:00. GUN FURY. 1953. With Rock Hudson, Donna Reed. (Screen Gems). 83 minutes.

Friday, June 28, 2:00. A LION IS IN THE STREETS. (see Thurs, June 27, 5:30)

Saturday, June 29, 3:00. THE KING AND FOUR QUEENS. 1956. With Clark Gable, Eleanor Parker, Jo Van Fleet. (20th Century-Fox). 84 minutes.

Saturday, June 29, 5:30. ESTHER AND THE KING. 1960. With Joan Collins, Richard Egan. (20th Century-Fox). 110 minutes.

Sunday, June 30, 5:30. THE SHERIFF OF FRACTURED JAW. 1958. With Jayne Mansfield, Kenneth More, Bruce Cabot. (20th Century-Fox). 110 minutes.

Monday, July 1, 2:00. THE KING AND FOUR QUEENS. (see Sat, June 29, 3:00)

Monday, July 1, 5:30. BATTLE CRY. 1955. With Van Heflin, Aldo Ray, Mona Freeman. (Warner Bros). 149 minutes.

Tuesday, July 2, 5:30. THE TALL MEN. 1955. With Clark Gable, Jane Russell, Robert Ryan. (20th Century-Fox). 121 minutes.

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- Wednesday, July 3, 2:00. ESTHER AND THE KING. (see Sat, June 29, 5:30)
- Thursday, July 4, 5:30. BAND OF ANGELS. 1957. With Clark Gable, Sidney Poitier, Yvonne de Carlo. (Warner Bros). 126 minutes.
- Thursday, July 4, 8:00. THE REVOLT OF MAMIE STOVER. (see Sun, June 23, 5:30)
- Friday, July 5, 2:00. BATTLE CRY. (see Mon, July 1, 5:30)
- Saturday, July 6, 3:00. THE TALL MEN. (see Tues, July 2, 5:30)
- Saturday, July 6, 5:30. BAND OF ANGELS. (see Thurs, July 4, 5:30)
- Sunday, July 7, 5:30. THE NAKED AND THE DEAD. 1958. With Raymond Massey, Aldo Ray, Cliff Robertson. (Warner Bros). 135 minutes.
- Monday, July 8, 2:00. THE NAKED AND THE DEAD. (see Sun, July 7, 5:30)
- Monday, July 8, 5:30. A DISTANT TRUMPET. 1964. With Troy Donahue, Suzanne Pleshette. (Warner Bros). 116 minutes.
- Tuesday, July 9, 5:30. MARINES LET'S GO. 1961. With Tom Tryon. (20th Century-Fox). 103 minutes.
- Wednesday, July 10, 2:00. A DISTANT TRUMPET. (see Mon. July 8, 5:30)
- Thursday, July 11, 5:30. A PRIVATE'S AFFAIR. 1959. With Sal Mineo, Christine Carrere, Barbara Eden. (20th Century-Fox). 92 minutes.

\* Silent film, original piano accompaniment by William Perry through the generosity of the Friends of the Department of Film.

\*\* Silent film, no piano accompaniment.