

NO. 35  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### WALTER KERR TO LECTURE ON SCREEN ACTING

Pulitzer Prize-winning critic Walter Kerr will offer a six-lecture program on American screen acting at The Museum of Modern Art as part of its LOOKING AT FILM series. This film course, commencing May 17, is scheduled for Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. through June 28, except for the evening of June 7.

Mr. Kerr's lectures on "Screen Acting" will provide a comprehensive survey of the varied techniques applied to the art of film acting from the silent era up to the present. Among those legendary performers whose work will be examined in detail are Lillian Gish, Douglas Fairbanks and Greta Garbo, representing the first great tradition of screen acting; Bette Davis, Humphrey Bogart and Barbara Stanwyck from Hollywood's heyday in the thirties and forties; and the more recent school of acting exemplified by Marlon Brando and George C. Scott. The British tradition, epitomized by such performers as Leslie Howard and Ralph Richardson, will also be discussed and contrasted with the various American schools of acting.

Each lecture will be accompanied by film excerpts illustrating the most notable work done by individual performers and will conclude with a full-length screening. In addition, programs on June 21 and 28 will feature distinguished guest appearances by prominent film performers, to be announced shortly.

Walter Kerr was recently awarded the 1978 Pulitzer Prize for Criticism, recognizing, in the words of the Pulitzer Committee, "the whole

body of his work." He has been one of the foremost critics of the performing arts for more than a quarter-century, and is currently a regular contributor to the Arts and Leisure section of the New York Times, after a long tenure as drama critic for the New York Herald Tribune. Before devoting himself to full-time criticism, Mr. Kerr served for many years as a director and professor of drama at Catholic University. His many books include Tragedy and Comedy, The Decline of Pleasure, God on the Gymnasium Floor, and most recently, The Silent Clowns, a definitive study of the screen's great comedians.

Funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities as a Learning Museum Program, the LOOKING AT FILM program has been designed to make serious film study accessible at nominal cost (\$15 for the entire series) to the general public as well as film specialists. For further information, write to LOOKING AT FILM at The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 or telephone (212) 956-4214. Prior film education is not a requisite.

LOOKING AT FILM gratefully acknowledges the help and cooperation of the following persons and organizations in obtaining films to accompany this lecture series: Films, Inc., Mr. Seth Willenson, Mr. Douglas Lemza, United Artists Corporation, Universal Pictures, Warner Brothers, Inc., Columbia Pictures Industries, Macmillan-Audio-Brandon and Select Films.

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For additional information, please contact Lillian Gerard, Special Projects Coordinator, or Kent Wittrup at (212) 956-7296, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019.

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