

# The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



NO. 38

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## "ASPECTS OF FILM NOIR: ALAN LADD IN THE 40'S" OPENS AT MoMA ON JULY 11, 1980

A series of four important Alan Ladd films forms ASPECTS OF FILM NOIR: ALAN LADD IN THE 40'S, an exhibition running from July 11 through July 15, 1980 at The Museum of Modern Art.

To be shown in the series are: THIS GUN FOR HIRE, Ladd's first starring role; THE GLASS KEY; THE BLUE DAHLIA; and the 1949 Paramount production of the F. Scott Fitzgerald classic, THE GREAT GATSBY.

The films will be shown in 35mm studio prints made available by Universal/MCA and the UCLA Film Archives.

Notes from The Museum's Department of Film indicate that "During the 1940's Hollywood studios produced a large number of crime melodramas whose stylistic consistency has since been given the name of 'Film Noir'. These shadowy and urbane films not only commanded consummate studio craftsmanship, but enabled a charismatic group of performers to express the tensions that provided the thematic content for the 'Film Noir'. At Paramount Pictures during the 1940's perhaps the emblematic figure of the 'Film Noir' was Alan Ladd."

The series opens with THIS GUN FOR HIRE at 8:30 PM on Friday, July 11 (to be repeated at 6 PM on Sunday, July 13). The film was directed by Frank Tuttle in 1942 with Ladd, Veronica Lake and Robert Preston and runs 81 minutes. THIS GUN FOR HIRE was the film that launched Ladd's career. In her book, LADD, Beverly Linet states, "the opening sequence left little doubt about either the director's or the studio's intentions. This was a star buildup... Variety, the Herald Tribune, and the Daily News acclaimed Alan Ladd as the most exciting new star of the year. Bosley Crowther's review in the Times on May 14, 1942, was a rave."

The series continues on Saturday, July 12 at 6 PM with THE GLASS KEY (1942. Stuart

(more)

Heisler. with Ladd, Brian Donleavy, Veronica Lake. 85 min.) to be repeated at 8:30 PM on Monday, July 14. THE BLUE DAHLIA will be shown at 8:30 PM on Saturday, July 12 and again at 6 PM on Monday, July 14. The film was directed by George Marshall in 1946 with Ladd, Veronica Lake and William Bendix and runs 94 minutes.

THE GREAT GATSBY (1949. Elliot Nugent. with Ladd, Betty Field, Barry Sullivan. 90 min.) will be screened at 8:30 PM on Sunday, July 13 and again at 6 PM on Tuesday, July 15.

The film program is made possible in part by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and by a grant from The National Endowment for the Arts.

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