

# The Museum of Modern Art

2/83

#11  
for immediate  
release

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY VINCENTE MINNELLI"  
AN EVENING WITH A GREAT AMERICAN FILMMAKER  
WILL BENEFIT THE  
ANNUAL FUND OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

On Wednesday, March 2, 1983, The Museum of Modern Art will honor a great American filmmaker and a directorial career spanning four decades. This year marks the 80th Birthday of Vincente Minnelli, one of the most accomplished, versatile and admired directors to have graced the American cinema. "HAPPY BIRTHDAY VINCENTE MINNELLI," an evening of celebration, will benefit the Annual Fund of The Museum of Modern Art.

Vincente Minnelli has brought a master's touch to films which encompass an astonishing range of style and subject. From his glorious movie musicals, such as MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS, AN AMERICAN IN PARIS, THE BANDWAGON and GIGI, to such powerful dramas as SOME CAME RUNNING and HOME FROM THE HILL, the Minnelli hallmarks have been a great visual richness and an emotional and artistic depth. His vivid portrayals of the movie world, THE BAD AND THE BEAUTIFUL and TWO WEEKS IN ANOTHER TOWN, his wry comedy of modern manners, FATHER OF THE BRIDE, his classic MADAME BOVARY, LUST FOR LIFE, his professed favorite, and, indeed, the full spectrum of Minnelli films, all attest to a sophisticated and compassionate vision.

A reception with Mr. and Mrs. Vincente Minnelli and a program of some of the finest moments from Mr. Minnelli's films will open the black-tie "HAPPY BIRTHDAY VINCENTE MINNELLI" evening at The Museum of Modern Art's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2, followed by a supper-dance at the Hotel Pierre with the music of Peter Duchin and his orchestra. Lily Auchincloss presides as Benefit Chairman. Mrs. Armand P. Bartos, Liza Minnelli, William S. Paley and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd are Honorary Chairmen of the gala evening.

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The Museum of Modern Art takes great pride in honoring Mr. Minnelli in the city which nurtured his early career. Throughout the 1930's his working base was a studio in the Beaux-Arts Building which stood on the site of today's new West Wing of the Museum. Between 1933 and 1935 Mr. Minnelli served as art director for all of Radio City Music Hall's stage shows. His remarkable career on the Broadway stage, as both director and set designer, included such memorable musical comedies as "The Ziegfield Follies of 1936," "At Home Abroad," "The Show Is On," "Hooray For What" and "Very Warm For May." In 1940 Mr. Minnelli graduated from Broadway to Hollywood, and the rest, as they say, is history.

A distinguished company of friends of Mr. and Mrs. Minnelli and of The Museum of Modern Art form the Benefit Committee of "HAPPY BIRTHDAY VINCENTE MINNELLI." They are: Bill Blass, Mr. and Mrs. David Brown, Betty Comden, Patricia Ann Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Douglas, Peter Duchin, Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Farkas, Miss Lillian Gish, Martha Graham, Adolph Green, Halston, Kitty Carlisle Hart, Mr. and Mrs. Al Hirschfeld, Lena Horne, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Jourdan, Fay Kanin, Michael Kanin, Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Koch, Mrs. Joseph Lauder, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lauder, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Lauder, Mrs. Vincente Minnelli, Phyllis Newman, Mr. and Mrs. Alan J. Pakula, Mollie Parnis, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Petrie, Mr. and Mrs. Milton A. Rudin, Gil Shiva, Mrs. Denniston Lyon Slater, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry I. Speyer, Mrs. Jules Stein, Mrs. Alfred R. Stern, Mrs. Walter N. Thayer, Mr. and Mrs. Roy V. Titus, and Jack Valenti.

To continue the celebration of Mr. Minnelli's birthday, the MoMA Department of Film will present three of his finest films in public screenings on March 3rd through March 6th. The films are MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS, FATHER OF THE BRIDE and THE BAD AND THE BEAUTIFUL.

A limited number of individual tickets to the March 2, 1983 Museum of Modern Art Annual Fund Benefit, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY VINCENTE MINNELLI," are still available at The Museum of Modern Art with a \$500 donation. For ticket information, please call (212) 708-9680.

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For further information, please contact Alicia Springer, Film Press Representative, (212) 708-9752, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019.

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