

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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#31 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART OFFERS A SALUTE TO RICHARD LESTER

Whether they be satires, thrillers, romances, burlesques, or works that fall into no convenient category, Richard Lester's films bear the unmistakable stamp of his style: rhythms that are quick and clean, a comic spirit that is original, edgy, and frequently complex, and an intelligence that, while always entertaining, is often psychologically acute and socially aware as well. With the release of his 19th feature film, Superman III, and his visit to New York for its premiere, the Department of Film has arranged A SALUTE TO RICHARD LESTER on Tuesday, June 14. The filmmaker and the Department have selected three films for the program--The Knack, Petulia, and Robin and Marian--which illustrate not only the apparent ease with which the director works in various genres, but how he molds the genre to his particular style.

The screenings, to be held in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2, will begin at noon with The Knack, and How to Get It (1965, 84 minutes, MGM/UA), Mr. Lester's adaptation of the Ann Jellicoe play, with Rita Tushingham, Ray Brooks, and Michael Crawford. At 2:30, the Museum will screen Petulia (1968, 105 minutes, Warner Bros.), with Julie Christie, George C. Scott, Richard Chamberlain, and Shirley Knight. And at 5:45, Mr. Lester will be on hand to introduce Robin and Marian (1976, 112 minutes, Columbia Pictures), starring Sean Connery and Audrey Hepburn.

The Museum's film program is made possible with funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. For further information, the public may call (212) 708-9400.

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