

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FILM LIBRARY TO SCREEN UNIQUE FILM CYCLE:
THE CAREER OF THE LATE DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS

For the first time in movie history, the whole career of a famous screen star will be put on view to the general public.

Ever since the death of Douglas Fairbanks in 1939, the Museum of Modern Art Film Library has been besieged by requests from all over the country to present a memorial program of the works of the famous actor-producer.

Fortunately, last year Mr. Fairbanks had generously presented to the Film Library his entire private collection of his own films.

Miss Iris Barry, Curator of the Film Library, now announces that from this material the Film Library has selected sixteen films arranged as a series of eight separate programs. They survey the whole screen character and career of Douglas Fairbanks, from his first to his last American film, ~~THE LAMB, 1915 to MR. ROBINSON CRUSOE, 1932~~.

Douglas Fairbanks was a leading Broadway actor when the newly-formed Triangle Corporation persuaded him to make movies. He was unconvinced, until John Emerson and Anita Loos saw that Fairbanks had more to give to the movies than to the stage, - namely the bounding health, ingratiating personality, and exhilarating gymnastic ability that was previously known only to his friends. After making ~~THE LAMB~~, Fairbanks never went back to the legitimate theatre. He made altogether 48 films. In later years, he became a good friend to the Museum of Modern Art and before he died had made a gift to the Film Library of 2,700,000 feet of film. This, aside from the D. W. Griffith collection, is the only complete assembling of one man's film career in the possession of the Film Library. In the forthcoming series, the public can see over again their remembered favorites. But they can also enjoy the experience, which is new to moviegoing, of seeing the continuous development of

a personal style of film comedy and in the process follow the technical development of movie-making from 1915 to 1932.

In the program note, Mr. Alistair Cooke, who saw over a half million feet of Fairbanks celluloid in order to prepare the programs, says:

"In kidding almost every fad and affectation of the War and post-war years, Fairbanks held a flattering mirror up to the average American. For a whole generation, he made physical well-being and infectious optimism the essence of heroics and was so immensely popular at the time that he was able to sign up D'Artagnan, Robin Hood, Petruchio, and other literary heroes, to play Douglas Fairbanks, -to the enhanced prestige of them all.

"In his early comedies he usually starts out as one of his own luckless disciples. In the last reel he soars beyond Horatio Alger to become a boy's hero who cannot be matched to-day in the movies and approximates most nearly to the comic-strip Superman. Incidentally, he is probably the only screen star to relegate the professional athletic stand-in to the status of a lagging amateur."

The first program of the series is a Film Library innovation. Called "The Screen Character of Douglas Fairbanks" it sketches in two hours the whole of Fairbanks' movie career, showing by what means he was able over seventeen years of movie production to keep his title of 'the best liked figure on the screen'. This program uses excerpts chronologically from THE LAMB-1915, A MODERN MUSKETEER-1917, SAY YOUNG FELLOW-1918, KNICKERBOCKER BUCKAROO-1919, THE MOLLYCODDLE-1920, DON Q-1925, and THE TAMING OF THE SHREW-1929.

This series of Eight Programs will run daily in the auditorium of the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, at 4 p.m. (Sundays at 2 and 4 p.m.) from Monday, May 6th till the last day of June.

After the two-month exhibition in New York, these programs will become available for non-commercial circulation to museums, colleges, schools, and film-study groups throughout the country.

THE PROGRAM SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Monday, May 6 - The Screen Character of Douglas Fairbanks: This first program spans practically the whole of Fairbanks' movie career, including reels from - The Lamb, The Mollycoddle, Say Young Fellow, Knickerbocker Buckaroo, A Modern Musketeer, Don Q, and The Taming of the Shrew (1929)
2. Tuesday, May 7 - Easterner vs. Westerner: Manhattan Madness (1916) and Wild and Woolly (1917)
3. Wednesday, May 8 - Debunker of Fads: When The Clouds Roll By (1919) and The Nut (1921)

- 4. Thursday, May 9 - The Cavalier (I): The Mark of Zorro (1920)
- 5. Friday, May 10 - The Cavalier (II): The Three Musketeers (1921)
- 6. Saturday, May 11 - Extravaganza: The Thief of Bagdad (1923-4)
- 7. Sunday, May 12 - The Cavalier (III): The Black Pirate (1926)
- 8. Monday, May 13 - Globe Trotter: Around the World in Eighty Minutes (1931)

Tues., May 14 - Fairbanks' Screen Character
 Wed., May 15 - Manhattan Madness and Wild and Woolly
 Thurs., May 16 - When the Clouds Roll By and The Nut
 Fri., May 17 - The Mark of Zorro
 Sat., May 18 - The Three Musketeers
 Sun., May 19 - The Thief of Bagdad
 Mon., May 20 - The Black Pirate
 Tues., May 21 - Around the World in 80 Minutes

Wed., May 22 - Fairbanks' Screen Character
 Thurs., May 23 - Manhattan Madness and Wild and Woolly
 Fri., May 24 - When the Clouds Roll By and the Nut
 Sat., May 25 - The Mark of Zorro
 Sun., May 26 - The Three Musketeers
 Mon., May 27 - The Thief of Bagdad
 Tues., May 28 - The Black Pirate
 Wed., May 29 - Around the World in 80 Minutes

Thurs., May 30 - Fairbanks' Screen Character
 Fri., May 31 - Manhattan Madness and Wild and Woolly
 Sat., June 1 - When the Clouds Roll By and The Nut
 Sun., June 2 - The Mark of Zorro
 Mon., June 3 - The Three Musketeers
 Tues., June 4 - The Thief of Bagdad
 Wed., June 5 - The Black Pirate
 Thurs., June 6 - Around the World in 80 Minutes

Fri., June 7 - Fairbanks' Screen Character
 Sat., June 8 - Manhattan Madness and Wild and Woolly
 Sun., June 9 - When the Clouds Roll By and The Nut
 Mon., June 10 - The Mark of Zorro
 Tues., June 11 - The Three Musketeers
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