

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ANNOUNCES THE PUBLICATION OF A COMPLETE CATALOG OF THE CIRCULATING FILM LIBRARY

The Department of Film has announced the publication of its Circulating Film Library Catalog, a comprehensive guide to some 1,000 films available through the Museum for rental, lease, and sale. With extensive annotations for each film, as well as interpretive essays on the major aspects of the collection, the book serves both as a catalog and as a one-volume reference work on the history of film.

When the Department of Film was founded in 1935, it stood almost alone in America in making film classics available to educational institutions. As such, it had an incalculable influence both on film scholars and on the general public. Today, the circulating collection enjoys unique and special strengths in the areas of the European and American cinema of the silent period, the avant-garde, the documentary, British independent and Canadian film. As a great many new acquisitions have entered the collection, and as recent scholarship has brought new information on film history to light, the Museum has undertaken a thorough revision and expansion of its catalog, the first since 1973.

Among the principal features of the new catalog are its interpretive essays: "Silent Fiction: Reframing Early Cinema" by Eileen Bowser, Curator of the Museum's Film Archive; "International Avant-Garde Film: Scattered Pieces" by Larry Kardish, Curator of Film Exhibitions and co-programmer of the Museum's CINEPROBE series of avant-garde film; and "The Documentary Film: Trends in the Nonfiction Tradition" by William Sloan, Librarian of the Circulating Film Library and programmer of WHAT'S HAPPENING?, the Museum's series of films on social and political issues. Also included are essays on American experimental film by Lucy Fischer of the Film Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh; contemporary British independent film by John Ellis, formerly of the British Film Institute; and the National Film Board of Canada by Sally Bochner of the NFBC.

The Circulating Film Library Catalog is illustrated with 127 black-and-white stills and includes an index and price list of film rentals, sales, and leases.

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The 304-page, softcover book is available to the public for \$12.95 and to members of the Museum for \$9.71, plus handling and postage, and may be ordered through Publications Sales and Service, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019 (212) 956-7262.

Publication of the catalog--and re-examination and updating of the circulating library's holdings--have been made possible by support from the D.S. and R.H. Gottesman Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the Hans Richter Estate.

February 1984

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