

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel: 212-708-9400 Cable: MODERNART Telex: 62370 MODART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MoMA TO INTRODUCE SIX PORTUGUESE CLASSICS: 1933-1974

From September 14-20, The Museum of Modern Art will help introduce to New York a national cinema that has been too long neglected. SIX PORTUGUESE CLASSICS: 1933-1974 are films significant to the history of the cinema of Portugal, a cinema which only now is being discovered in this country. The screenings will take place in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2.

Organized by Richard Pena of the Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, in collaboration with the Portuguese Film Institute, the Cinemateca Portuguesa, and the Embassy of Portugal in Washington, D.C., this exhibition ranges from The Song of Lisbon, the first sound film produced in its entirety in Portugal, through Brandos Costumes, the work commonly held to have inaugurated the new Portuguese cinema. (The latter was presented in 1976 in NEW DIRECTORS/NEW FILMS.)

"Lacking a solid economic base," Pena observes, "the Portuguese cinema has been a cinema of 'auteurs'--of strong individuals who devoted their lives to continuing film production despite the often impossible conditions of work." Among the highlights of the selection, according to Pena, are The May Revolution, "a superbly crafted, unabashed ode to Salazar's 'Estado Novo' regime that nevertheless makes excellent use of Soviet montage techniques, and Paulo Rocha's The Green Years, an atmospheric tale of two young lovers in Lisbon reminiscent of the early films of the 'Nouvelle Vague.' Mountain Wolves"--a Portuguese "Western"--"is a good example of the work of Brum do Canto, an exemplary craftsman and one of the Portuguese cinema's most prolific and consistently popular directors." Of A Bee in the Rain, which traces the dissolution of an upper-class couple's marriage, Pena notes the delicate, atmospheric realization of a contemporary Portuguese novel.

The Department of Film will continue its series of Portuguese films in November with a complete retrospective of the work of MANOEL DE OLIVEIRA, the acknowledged dean of the Portuguese cinema.

SIX PORTUGUESE CLASSICS has been organized at the Museum by Adrienne Mancina, Curator of Film Exhibitions. For information, the public may call (212) 708-9500.

COMPLETE SCHEDULE IS ATTACHED

August 1984

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

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SCHEDULE--SIX PORTUGUESE CLASSICS: 1933-1974

- Fri. 9/14 2:30 A Canção de Lisboa (The Song of Lisbon). 1933. Cottinelli Telmo.
With Vasco^s Santana, Teresa Gomes, Manoel de Oliveira. 90 min.
- 6:00 A Revolução de Maio (The May Revolution). 1937. António Lopes
Ribeiro. With Maria Clara, António Martinez, Emília de Oliveira.
135 min.
- Sat. 9/15 2:30 Lobos da Serra (Mountain Wolves). 1942. Jorge Brum do Canto.
With António Sousa, Maria Domingas, António Silva. 98 min.
- 5:00 Os Verdes Anos (The Green Years). 1963. Paulo Rocha. With
Isabel Ruth, Rui Gomes, Ruy Furtado. 81 min.
- Sun. 9/16 2:30 Brandos Costumes (Sweet Customs). 1972-74. Alberto Seixas Santos.
With Luís Santos, Dalila Rocha, Isabel de Castro. 75 min.
- 5:00 Uma Abelha na Chuva (A Bee in the Rain). 1972. Fernando Lopes.
With Laura Soveral, João Guedes, Zita Duarte. 61 min.
- Mon. 9/17 2:30 A Revolução de Maio.
- 6:00 A Canção de Lisboa.
- Tues. 9/18 2:30 Brandos Costumes.
- 6:00 Os Verdes Anos.
- Thur. 9/20 2:30 Uma Abelha na Chuva.
- 6:00 Lobos da Serra.

All films are in Portuguese with English subtitles.