

# 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

#19

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MURNAU, A COMPLETE RETROSPECTIVE OF THE WORK OF THE MASTER GERMAN FILMMAKER, TO BE SHOWN AT MoMA FROM APRIL 26 TO MAY 19

Beginning Friday, April 26, The Museum of Modern Art will present a comprehensive retrospective of the work of F.W. Murnau (1889-1931), including all his extant German films in their restored versions from the Munich Film Archive-- prints often more complete than anything shown before, and of a luminous photographic quality essential to the appreciation of Murnau's genius for creating images. Screenings will be held in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2. For the first evening's screening, Enno Patalas, Curator of the Munich Film Museum, will introduce Murnau's most celebrated "horror" film, Nosferatu (1922), in a restored print that includes material scarcely seen before.

When Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau died on a Los Angeles highway in 1931, at age 42, he left behind one of the most sophisticated and influential bodies of work in international cinema. Born in Germany, he started his career around 1910, studying with Max Reinhardt and later directing for the stage in both Germany and Switzerland. Toward the end of the decade, he turned to filmmaking, completing 12 full-length pictures for various small companies from 1919 to 1923. Among these films were Der Gang in die Nacht (recently rediscovered by Enno Patalas, and a highlight of the MURNAU exhibition), Der Brennende Acker, and Nosferatu. In 1923 he joined the prestigious UFA Company, under whose auspices he made Die Finanzen des Grossherzogs, Der Letzte Mann, Tartuffe, and Faust. Murnau left for Hollywood in 1926, where he worked for Fox Film Corporation and later for Paramount, creating Sunrise, City Girl (Our Daily Bread), and Tabu.

In her path-breaking biography of Murnau, Lotte H. Eisner quotes the filmmaker as writing of his work: "What I refer to is the fluid architecture of bodies with blood in their veins moving through mobile space; the interplay of lines rising, falling, disappearing; the encounter of surfaces, stimulation and its opposite, calm; construction and collapse...the play of pure movement, vigorous and abundant." In discussing Murnau's realization of these concerns in his films, critic John Gillett

more/

remarks that "Murnau was a perfectionist, an aesthete and in many ways a visionary, whose poetic and painterly sensibilities brought to this Golden Age of German cinema new concepts of film form based on a synthesis of all the elements currently in vogue, from Caligari-like horrors to an Expressionist use of actors' bodies through to a rugged realism (especially in his American period) which, nevertheless, never lost sight of its roots in a romantic German past."

MURNAU has been organized by Adrienne Mancia, Curator, and Jytte Jensen, Curatorial Assistant, in the Department of Film of The Museum of Modern Art. The Department is deeply indebted to the Munich Film Museum and Enno Patalas for supplying the prints for this exhibition. We also wish to express our gratitude to Dr. Christoph-Ulrich Wecker, Dr. Knut Heuer, and Ingrid Scheib-Rothbart of Goethe House, New York, for co-sponsoring MURNAU with the Department of Film.

Please note: Since the prints to be shown in MURNAU are the best available, the silent German films will be shown with German intertitles. Synopses in English will be provided for the audience.

For further information, the public may call (212) 708-9500. For a recorded announcement of the day's screenings: (212) 708-9490.

COMPLETE SCHEDULE IS ATTACHED

April 1985

\*\*\*\*\*  
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.  
\*\*\*\*\*

SCHEDULE--MURNAU

April 26 - May 19, 1985

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2

- Fri. 4/26 3:00 Der Brennende Acker (The Burning Earth). 1922. F.W. Murnau. With Werner Krauss, Eugen Klöpfer, Lya de Putti. German titles. 126 min. \*\*
- 6:30 Nosferatu--Eine Symphonie des Grauens (Nosferatu). 1922. F.W. Murnau. With Max Schreck. German titles. 102 min. \* Enno Patalas, Curator of the Munich Film Museum, will introduce the screening.
- Sat. 4/27 2:30 Nosferatu--Eine Symphonie des Grauens. \*\*
- 5:30 Der Brennende Acker. \*
- Sun. 4/28 2:30 Schloss Vogelöd (Castle Vogelöd). 1921. F.W. Murnau. With Arnold Korff, Lulu Keyser-Korff, Olga Tschechova, Paul Bildt. German titles. 84 min. \*
- 5:30 Der Gang in die Nacht (Journey into the Night). 1920. F.W. Murnau. With Olaf Fönss, Erna Morena. German titles. 96 min. \*
- Tue. 4/30 3:00 Schloss Vogelöd. \*\*
- Sat. 5/4 2:30 Der Gang in die Nacht.
- 5:30 Phantom. 1922. F.W. Murnau. With Alfred Abel, Aud Egede Nissen, Lil Dagover. German titles. 150 min. \*\*
- Sun. 5/5 2:30 Die Finanzen des Grossherzogs (The Finances of the Grand Duke). 1923. F.W. Murnau. With Harry Liedtke, Mady Christians, Alfred Abel. German titles. 93 min. \*\*
- 5:30 Faust. 1926. F.W. Murnau. With Gösta Ekman, Emil Jannings, Camilla Horn. German titles. 138 min. \*\*
- Fri. 5/10 3:00 Die Finanzen des Grossherzogs. \*\*
- 6:30 Phantom. \*\*
- Sat. 5/11 2:30 Tartuffe. 1926. F.W. Murnau. With Emil Jannings, Werner Krauss, Lil Dagover, Louise Höfflich. German titles. 105 min. \*\*
- 5:30 Faust. \*\*
- Sun. 5/12 2:30 Der Letzte Mann (The Last Laugh). 1924. F.W. Murnau. With Emil Jannings. German titles. 106 min. \*\*

\* indicates silent, with live piano accompaniment. \*\* indicates no accompaniment.

Sun. 5/12 5:30 Tartuffe. \*\*

Mon. 5/13 3:00 Der Letzte Mann. \*\*

Fri. 5/17 3:00 Sunrise. 1927. F.W. Murnau. With George O'Brien, Janet Gaynor, Margaret Livingston. English titles. 95 min. \*\*

6:30 Tabu. 1931. F.W. Murnau and Robert Flaherty. 80 min.

Sat. 5/18 2:30 Our Daily Bread (City Girl). 1929. F.W. Murnau. With Charles Farrell, Mary Duncan, David Torrence. 88 min. \*\*

6:30 Sunrise. \*\*

Sun. 5/19 2:30 Tabu.

5:30 Our Daily Bread (City Girl). \*\*

# # #