

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MoMA TO PAY TRIBUTE TO SILENT SCREEN STAR JOHN GILBERT WITH SCREENINGS ON JUNE 21 AND 22

The Department of Film will present three of the most memorable movies of John Gilbert--one of the most gifted and magnetic actors of the American silent screen--in a tribute to the star on June 21 and 22. Each of the screenings--to be held in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2--will be introduced by Leatrice Gilbert Fountain, John Gilbert's daughter and the author of Dark Star, a recent biography of her father.

At the height of the silent era from the mid- to late twenties, John Gilbert's combination of romance, dash and sensitivity marked him as both an accomplished actor and an indelible screen personality. Guided by such distinguished directors as King Vidor, Victor Seastrom, and Erich von Stroheim, Gilbert appeared opposite a host of eminent leading ladies, including Lillian Gish, Norma Shearer, Mae Murray, Joan Crawford, and most notably Greta Garbo, with whom he made four films. While his talent remained undimmed up to his untimely death, Gilbert's career nevertheless suffered a swift decline with the advent of talkies, a subject painstakingly explored in Ms. Fountain's book.

This MoMA tribute showcases Gilbert at the peak of his popularity and prowess. On the schedule are Cameo Kirby (1923), directed by John Ford; Flesh and the Devil (1927), the first of the films Gilbert made with Greta Garbo; and the rarely seen Man, Woman and Sin (1927), a personal favorite of Mr. Gilbert, featuring a rare screen appearance by the legendary stage star Jeanne Eagels.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN GILBERT has been organized by Stephen Harvey, Assistant Curator in the Department of Film. The Department would like to express its thanks to MGM/UA and MCA-Universal for their co-operation.

For further information, the public may call (212) 708-9500.

COMPLETE SCHEDULE IS ATTACHED

June 1985

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

SCHEDULE

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN GILBERT

- Fri. 6/21 3:00 Cameo Kirby. 1923. John Ford. With John Gilbert, Gertrude Olmstead, Jean Arthur. c. 80 min. Silent, no musical accompaniment.
- 6:30 Man, Woman and Sin. 1927. Monta Bell. With John Gilbert, Jeanne Eagels. c. 66 min. Silent, with live piano accompaniment.
- Sat. 6/22 2:30 Man, Woman and Sin. Live piano accompaniment.
- 5:30 Flesh and the Devil. 1927. Clarence Brown. With John Gilbert, Greta Garbo, Lars Hanson. c. 100 min. Silent, with live piano accompaniment.

All screenings will be held in the Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2.

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