

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
March 1987

EXHIBITION OF FILMS BY HUNGARIAN ICONOCLAST GYULA GAZDAG TO OPEN AT MoMA APRIL 10

Hungarian filmmaker Gyula Gazdag appears at The Museum of Modern Art on Friday, April 10, to inaugurate a series of his works. He introduces the operatic parody Singing on the Treadmill (1974) at 6:30 p.m. His 1971 The Whistling Cobblestone will be screened at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Gazdag has created fiction and documentary films that often humorously question the status quo. Singing on the Treadmill is an operatic parody of the socialist realist works of the fifties that treats such major social issues as the housing shortage and the high suicide rate. The Whistling Cobblestone is a comedy that exposes the generation gap between entrenched authority and rebellious youth.

Other films in the exhibition GYULA GAZDAG, which continues through April 21, are his short The Long Distance Runner (1968), a comic example of cinéma vérité which shows the influence of the Czech New Wave and documents the absurd rituals staged when an athlete opens a village inn; Selection (1970), a documentary concerning a Communist Youth Organization's search for an appropriate rock band; and three additional works, the short Happy New Year (1974) and the features Swap (1977) and The Banquet (1981). A complete schedule of films is attached.

Mr. Gazdag is known in New York primarily for his adaptation of Balzac's Lost Illusions (1982), featured at the 1983 New York Film Festival; the documentary on Communist Party bureaucracy The Resolution (1972),

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codirected with Judit Ember and screened in NEW DIRECTORS/NEW FILMS in 1986; and the 1984 documentary Package Tour, a film about Auschwitz survivors who return to the camp as tourists, which had its American theatrical premiere at New York's Public Theater in 1987.

Hungarian writer György Báron's essay "The Failure of Paternalism: A Portrait of the Filmmaker Gyula Gazdag," which was excerpted in the brochure of the 1985 Berlin Film Festival's International Forum of Young Cinema, summarizes the director's integration of social issues with cinematic technique:

Gazdag is not only a filmmaker who intentionally addresses a set of problems of society, but he is also in the true sense of the word a master of form.... To Gazdag "form" means to use the possibilities of cinematic expression in a way that is both economic and prosaic. The use of the means of expression is, however, always subordinate to the content.

GYULA GAZDAG has been arranged by Edith Kramer, curator of the Pacific Film Archive at the University Art Museum, Berkeley, in cooperation with Hungarofilm, Budapest. The exhibition has been organized for The Museum of Modern Art by Adrienne Mancina, curator in the Department of Film.

J. Hoberman, film critic for The Village Voice, is a special consultant for the retrospective.

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For further press information and photographic materials, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9752.

GYULA GAZDAG

April 10-21, 1987

The Museum of Modern Art, New York
The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2

All films in Hungarian with English subtitles.

Schedule

Friday, April 10

- 3:00 p.m.: The Whistling Cobblestone/ Sípoló Macskakó. 1971. Gyula Gazdag. With Zoltán Paulinyi, János Atkári, András Mész. 96 min.
6:30 p.m.: Singing on the Treadmill/ Bástyasétány 74. 1974. Gyula Gazdag. With Ewald Schorm, Lili Monori, Hanna Honthy. 76 min.
GYULA GAZDAG WILL BE PRESENT.

Saturday, April 11

- 2:30 p.m.: Package Tour/ Társasutazás. 1984. Gyula Gazdag. 75 min.
5:30 p.m.: The Whistling Cobblestone/ Sípoló Macskakó. See Friday, April 10, 3:00.

Sunday, April 12

- 2:30 p.m.: Singing on the Treadmill/ Bástyasétány 74. See Friday, April 10, 6:30.
5:30 p.m.: Package Tour/ Társasutazás. See Saturday, April 11, 2:30.

Friday, April 17

- 3:00 p.m.: The Banquet/ A Bankett. 1981. Gyula Gazdag. 84 min.
6:30 p.m.: Lost Illusions/ Elveszett Illúziók. 1982. Gyula Gazdag. With Gábor Máté, Dorottya Udvaros, Bogusław Linda. 106 min.

Saturday, April 18

- 2:30 p.m.: The Long Distance Runner/ Hosszú Futásodra Mindig Számíthatunk. 1968. Gyula Gazdag; Happy New Year/ Szilveszter. 1974. Gyula Gazdag and Elemér Ragalyi; Selection/ Válogatás. 1970. Gyula Gazdag. Entire program 65 min.
5:30 p.m.: The Resolution/ Határozat. 1972. Gyula Gazdag and Judit Ember. 105 min.

Sunday, April 19

- 2:30 p.m.: The Resolution/ Határozat. See Saturday, April 18, 5:30.
5:30 p.m.: The Long Distance Runner/ Hosszú Futásodra Mindig Számíthatunk; Happy New Year/ Szilveszter; Selection/ Válogatás. See Saturday, April 18, 2:30.

Monday, April 20

- 3:00 and 6:30 p.m.: Swap/ A Kétfenekű Dob. 1977. Gyula Gazdag. With Rudolph Hrusinsky. 85 min.

Tuesday, April 21

- 3:00 p.m.: Lost Illusions/ Elveszett Illúziók. See Friday, April 17, 6:30.
6:30 p.m.: The Banquet/ A Bankett. See Friday, April 17, 3:00.