

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
April 1989

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ANNOUNCES SPONSOR FOR CHAPLIN EXHIBITION

The Museum of Modern Art is pleased to announce that Rose Associates, Inc., has generously contributed to the sponsorship of CHAPLIN: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. The exhibition, which pays tribute to the singular genius of Charles Chaplin (1889-1977) on the one-hundredth anniversary of his birth, includes a gallery exhibition (extended through August 1) and a film retrospective (April 14 - 27). An illustrated publication, Charles Chaplin: An Appreciation, by Charles Silver, supervisor, Film Study Center, complements the exhibition.

Chaplin, who was born on April 16, 1889, was one of the indisputable geniuses of the cinema. Its first complete auteur--actor, writer, director, producer, composer--he established precedents in the film industry for stardom, financial reward, and artistic independence. He created the timeless character the Tramp, a vagabond who was Everyman, and through him spoke a universal, though silent, language. Chaplin's movie career spanned fifty-four years, during which he made sixty-nine short films and twelve features.

Mary Corliss, assistant curator, Department of Film, has organized an exhibition of film-still enlargements and original posters illustrating Chaplin's career from the first short films he made for Mack Sennett's Keystone Film Company to the later features made for United Artists. A video display, Unknown Chaplin, Episode I, written and produced by Kevin Brownlow and David Gill, uses outtakes and rare footage to depict Chaplin's working methods during the production of the Mutual short films (1916-17).

- more -

Chaplin produced, wrote, and directed the films in the retrospective. The series opens on April 14 with The Chaplin Revue (1958), three shorter films made between 1918 and 1923 (A Dog's Life, Shoulder Arms, and The Pilgrim). All the feature films are included from The Kid (1921) to Chaplin's final film, A Countess from Hong Kong (1967). His masterpieces of silent comedy, such as The Gold Rush (1925), City Lights (1931), and Modern Times (1936), as well as the rarely shown melodrama A Woman of Paris (1923), are scheduled.

Chaplin's five sound films are also presented: The Great Dictator (1940), a brilliant and audacious satire on fascism; Monsieur Verdoux (1947), a controversial attack on capitalism; Limelight (1952), a lyrical romance; A King in New York (1957), an anti-McCarthy comedy; and A Countess from Hong Kong, a comic shipboard romance filmed in color. The film program was organized by Charles Silver.

* * *

*PUBLICATION Charles Chaplin: An Appreciation by Charles Silver. Forty-three black-and-white illustrations; eighty pages. Published by The Museum of Modern Art. Paperbound, \$8.95.

No. 40

For further information or photographic materials, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.