

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
January 1991

LECTURES ON COMEDY IN FILM BEGINS JANUARY 22, 1991, AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Nora Ephron, Wendy Wasserstein, and Swoosie Kurtz, among others, address the art of film comedy in a four-lecture course at The Museum of Modern Art. Cosponsored by The Museum of Modern Art and New York Women in Film, **WHAT'S SO FUNNY? THE ART OF SCREEN COMEDY** examines the development of American film comedy from early slapstick to contemporary comic style. Beginning on January 22, 1991, all classes are held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2.

January 22

Will It Play?

Mary Lea Bandy, Nora Ephron, and Wendy Wasserstein

This discussion focuses on scriptwriting for specific performers and on the processes of developing and directing comedy.

January 29

Alone/Together

Charles Silver and Special Guests

Excerpts from films by Charles Chaplin, Ernst Lubitch, Preston Sturges, and Jean Renoir illustrate both improvised material and well-rehearsed, carefully-timed work. Following the screening, special guests (to be announced) discuss how solo performers and comedy teams shape their material.

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February 5
Physical Comedy
Lenore French, Bill Irwin, and Swoosie Kurtz

From pratfall to sight gag, the secret to successful slapstick and physical comedy is the subject for discussion.

February 12
The Blonde Bombshell and Beyond
Molly Haskell

This session compares the comic style of blonde comediennes, such as Jean Harlow and Marilyn Monroe, with that of brainy brunettes, such as Rosalind Russell and Lily Tomlin.

Participants may subscribe to the entire series or purchase seats at individual sessions. To register for the entire series, send \$90 (\$75 MoMA and NYWIF members) with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Education/Public Programs, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019; or call (212) 708-9795. Single session admissions are available at the Museum's Information Desk for \$24 (\$20 MoMA and NYWIF members).

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For further information or film stills, contact Sarah Eaton, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.