

The Museum of Modern Art

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART CELEBRATES THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FILM COLLECTION

The Museum of Modern Art celebrates the sixtieth anniversary of its world-renowned collection of international film with a series of exhibitions beginning April 3, 1995. The **SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM** is comprised of four exhibitions; a program of new acquisitions, a re-creation of the original film program shown to Hollywood luminaries in 1935 to convince them to contribute to MoMA's budding archive, a series showing the Museum's first acquisitions, and a program of films donated by filmmakers.

Since the founding of the Film Library in 1935, the Museum has enjoyed close relations with many leading filmmakers from around the world and has acquired extraordinary films through its continued association with directors and producers. Mary Lea Bandy, Chief Curator of the Department of Film and Video, states, "The heart and soul of the Museum's film collection has always been the filmmakers, producers, writers, actors, and studios who have been so supportive and generous."

The schedule for the **SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM**, which continues through June 8, is as follows:

NEW ACQUISITIONS

April 3 - 17

A selection of works donated to the Museum's film and video collection in 1994 includes works from Janus Films, Paramount Pictures, Oliver Stone, and Warner Bros. Featured in the thirteen programs are Joseph L. Mankiewicz's *The Barefoot Contessa* (1954), starring Ava Gardner and Humphrey Bogart; a

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director's cut of Louis Malle's *Vie privée (Private Life)*, 1961); James Ivory's *A Room with a View* (1986); Jon Jost's *The Bed You Sleep In* (1993); and all fifteen episodes of *Dick Tracy's G-Men* (1939), directed by William Witney and John English and starring Ralph Byrd and Phylis Isley (Jennifer Jones). *Dick Tracy's G-Men* is introduced by Edward Z. Epstein, author of a new book on Jennifer Jones. Also presented is a 35mm print of *Alice in Wonderland*, a 1948 animation and live-action work codirected by Dallas Bower and Lou Bunin that the Museum restored in 1994. Organized by Anne Morra, Assistant Curator, Department of Film and Video.

A PARTY AT PICKFAIR: THE BEGINNING OF MoMA'S FILM ARCHIVE

April 18 and 21

In 1935 Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks hosted a reception at their Pickfair estate, where Iris Barry presented a screening of selected films to members of the Hollywood elite. Her program helped to convince such filmmakers as Harold Lloyd and Walt Disney to donate prints to establish the world's first museum film archive. This reconstruction of Barry's Pickfair screening shows such works as *Pluto's Judgement Day* (1935), *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1930), *The Gold Rush* (1925), and *The Great Train Robbery* (1903). Organized by Mary Lea Bandy, Chief Curator, Department of Film and Video.

FIRST ACQUISITIONS, 1935-1938

April 18 - May 4

This program presents a selection of the films acquired between 1935 and 1939 by Iris Barry, the first Curator of the Museum's Film Library. Since that time, the Film Archive has grown to comprise over 13,500 works. Included are works by Charles Chaplin, Walt Disney, D. W. Griffith, Ernst Lubitsch, Erich von Stroheim, and King Vidor, which formed the core of the Museum's collection. Also featured are such masterworks as Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* (1925), Fernand Léger's *Ballet Mécanique* (1924), Victor Sjöström's *The Wind* (1928), and Robert Wiene's *Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari (The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari)*, 1920). Organized by Laurence Kardish, Curator, Department of Film and Video.

FILMMAKERS AND THE ARCHIVE

May 18 - June 8

This exhibition features a small selection from major collections of films donated by such directors as Paul Bartel, John Cassavetes, Satyajit Ray, Oliver Stone, Francis Ford Coppola, Clint Eastwood, Morris Engel and Ruth Orkin, Emile de Antonio, D. W. Griffith, Stanley Kubrick, Louis Malle, Paul

Morrissey, Otto Preminger, Martin Scorsese, and Jerry Schatzberg; such actors as Douglas Fairbanks and Lillian Gish; and such producers as Marin Karmitz, Ismail Merchant, Ed Pressman, Samuel Goldwyn, and David O. Selznick. A highlight of the program is the performance on piano of the original scores during the screenings of *Broken Blossoms* (1919), directed by D. W. Griffith and starring Lillian Gish, and *Thief of Bagdad* (1924), directed by Raoul Walsh and starring Douglas Fairbanks. Also included are Coppola's *The Godfather*, Part I (1972) and Part II (1974), Scorsese's *The King of Comedy* (1983), and Malle's *Lacombe, Lucien* (1974). Organized by Laurence Kardish.

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For further information or film stills, contact Samantha Graham, Film and Video Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.

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