

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART TO CONCLUDE ITS CYCLE OF 300 FILMS WITH
OLD AND NEW SERIAL THRILLERS, FILMS FOR LATIN AMERICA,
AND AMERICAN DEFENSE FILMS

The clutching hand, the bloodhounds, the heroine left to a fate worse than death at the end of each episode, will once again after a lapse of more than three decades race across a motion picture screen on Friday, January 23, when the Museum of Modern Art presents for the first time Program 104: THE SERIAL FILM: 1915-1940, in its Cycle of 300 Films. But Pearl White, famous heroine of The Exploits of Elaine, great movie serial of 1915, will share the program with "Buster" Crabbe as Buck Rogers, the comic strip hero of this generation who pilots space ships in inter-planetary wars of the 25th century. The Adventures of Red Ryder, another motion picture serial which today delights hundreds of thousands of little boys throughout the country, will be part of the same program, to be shown daily at 4 P.M. and Sundays at 2 and 4 P.M., from Friday, January 23, through Sunday, February 1.

Two additional programs will complete this Cycle. Program 105: FILMS FOR LATIN AMERICA, which will be shown February 2 through February 7, will consist of Spanish and Portuguese versions of four American films. These are examples chosen from the many short subjects re-edited at the Museum of Modern Art Film Library for the office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs to distribute non-commercially in Latin America.

Program 106, the last of the Cycle, will be devoted to AMERICAN DEFENSE FILMS and will be shown from February 8 through February 14. The five films composing this program represent a cross section of recent American documentaries on the defense theme made before this country entered the war. In one of these films, Safe-guarding Military Information, several leading Hollywood players appear anonymously. If the spectator watches closely he will see Ginger Rogers as the girl whose boy friend in the Army carelessly gives her information which later results in the torpedoing of a trans-

port. Walter Huston also appears as one of the nameless actors in this film.

Iris Barry, Curator of the Museum of Modern Art Film Library, who arranged the Cycle of 300 Films, comments on motion picture serials as follows:

"As this retrospective of motion picture history ends, particular tribute is paid in this program to the serial film and its unquenchable vitality. An immediate success at the time of its first appearance in 1913, the serial film taught audiences the habit of regular movie-going and, twenty-five years ago, was so popular that to countless movie fans the vicissitudes of Pearl White seemed more gripping than world events.

"Today, serials seldom gain the critical attention they deserve, though they continue to enthrall vast audiences. Essentially cinematic, they often employ a remarkable range of technical devices as here in the boldly fantastic Buck Jones (which Méliès would certainly have approxed) and the sensational Adventures of Red Ryder which carries the tradition of The Great Train Robbery and the Western film to its ultimate conclusion of excitement."

The three motion picture programs completing the Museum's Cycle of 300 Films are:

Program 104. THE SERIAL FILM: 1915-1940
January 23 - February 1.

1915 THE EXPLOITS OF ELAINE, Episode 6, directed by Leopold Wharton, produced by Hearst-Pathé, with Pearl White, Arnold Daly, Sheldon Lewis.

1938 BUCK ROGERS, Episode 1: Tomorrow's World, and Episode 12: The War of the Planets. Directed by Ford Beebe and Saul A. Goodkind; produced by Universal Pictures Inc. with Larry "Buster" Crabbe, Constance Moore and Jackie Moran.

1940 THE ADVENTURES OF RED RYDER, Episode 1: Murder on the Santa Fe Trail, and Episode 12: Frontier Justice. Directed by William Witney and John English; produced by Republic Pictures.

Program 105. FILMS FOR LATIN AMERICA
February 2 - February 7.

Spanish and Portuguese versions of more than a score of films like these four have already been prepared at the Film Library for the office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs for distribution in Latin America. Films about Central and South American countries are also being prepared for circulation in the United States.

1940 ENERGIA Y PODER DE AMERICA. Spanish version of POWER FOR DEFENSE, produced by Arch A. Mercey, National Defense Advisory Commission. A close-up of America's gigantic dams and power projects--largest in the world--which turn the wheels of the factories that build national defense.

1935 EL BASKETBALL. Spanish version of BASKETBALL TECHNIQUE, produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Brilliant and tricky plays of the popular sport shown in action, then analyzed in slow motion.

1935 ALASKA, TIERRA DE PROMISION. Spanish version of ALASKA'S SILVER MILLIONS, produced and edited by Beverly Jones for the American Can Co., commentary and supervision by Father Bernard R. Hubbard, S.J. A documentary on the strange story of the migratory

salmon that travel thousands of miles every year to spawn in the rivers of Alaska, and of the industry they nourish.

- 1941 SOLDADOS DO AR. Portuguese version of SOLDIERS OF THE SKY, produced by Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corp. A spectacular revelation of the courage, hardihood and skill of our parachute troops.

Program 106. AMERICAN DEFENSE FILMS
February 8 - February 14

All of the films in this cross-section of recent documentaries with a defense theme were made before America entered the war. Production by government agencies is represented as well as production by commercial film producers. It will be noted that a considerable variety of styles and techniques have been used for imparting information to the general public and for instructing the armed forces.

- 1941 BOMBER, produced by the Office for Emergency Management Film Unit, commentary written by Carl Sandburg. The story of the building of a bomber-- a story of American planning, skill, ingenuity, workmanship and production.
- 1940 EYES OF THE NAVY, produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. The making of an aviator at Pensacola, Florida, together with a lively photographic summary of naval aviation.
- 1941 SAFEGUARDING MILITARY INFORMATION, produced by the Signal Corps, War Department, through the cooperation of the Research Council, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.
- 1942 FIRE--PREVENTION AND CONTROL, a March of Time' Special Production for the United States Navy, Aviation Service Schools.
- 1941 TANKS, produced by the Office for Emergency Management Film Unit. Narration spoken by Orson Welles.

The entire Cycle will start again on February 15 with Program 1, The Development of Narrative.