

The Museum of Modern Art

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THE AMERICAN ACTION MOVIE: NEW FILM SERIES AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The American Action Movie, a program of popular westerns, thrillers and war films made from 1946 to 1964, selected by art critic, Lawrence Alloway, will be shown from April 25 to June 6 at The Museum of Modern Art. The series begins with the 1946 film version of Ernest Hemingway's "The Killers," directed by Robert Siodmak, with Burt Lancaster and Ava Gardner; and ends with the 1964 adaptation of the same story made by Don Siegel, starring John Cassavetes and Angie Dickinson.

Other films in the program are "Kiss Me Deadly" (1955) from the novel by Mickey Spillane, with Ralph Meeker and Albert Dekker; "Pickup on South Street" (1953) with Richard Widmark; "The Big Heat" (1953) with Glenn Ford, Gloria Grahame, and Lee Marvin; and two Orson Welles thrillers, "Lady from Shanghai" (1948), starring Rita Hayworth and Welles; and "Touch of Evil" (1958) in which Welles appears with Marlene Dietrich, Akim Tamiroff, Janet Leigh and Charlton Heston.

This type of characteristic American movie, "at once over familiar and understudied," will be examined by Mr. Alloway in the program. It includes several Richard Widmark films to illustrate the importance of an actor's presence as distinct from his dramatic role, since Mr. Alloway recognizes the contribution of the actor's personality to the acceptance of popular films. He also emphasizes the role of the producer and the influences of such men as Hal Wallis, Aaron Rosenberg, and Albert Zugsmith, whose films have given evidence that they were attuned to contemporary popular taste.

Alloway contends that "sometimes the actor, sometimes the producer may be the decisive personality in a movie." He also points out that thematic preoccupations and conventions shape films regardless of the director's identity. His program is designed to expose characteristic cinema patterns in contrast to what Alloway labels "the compulsive expertise of director recognition."

Typical of a conventional genre is the motorcycle film, discussed by Alloway in his forthcoming book. The cycle was started by Marlon Brando in "The Wild One." Brando's

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role derives from the melancholy ill-fated types played by Jean Gabin in the French films of the thirties. The heroes in the later films in this cycle, however, are more detached, and so reflect the temper of modern audiences who are indifferent to the origin of a contemporary and conventional idol.

Mr. Alloway contends that other media are "full of echoes of movies echoing the style, the stars and the content." Consequently his selection of American films of the past two decades "in extra-personal terms" is an attempt to single out what constitutes representative themes and conventions common to groups and cycles of films that have proven popular with American audiences. "Audiences understand these conventions," says Alloway, "Now, perhaps, critics can begin to."

The program follows:

April 24. 2, 5:30, 8. "The Killers." 1946. Directed by Robert Siodmak. With Burt Lancaster, Ava Gardner. Courtesy Columbia Pictures. 105 min.

April 25. 2, 5:30. "Out of the Past." 1947. Directed by Jacques Tourneur. With Robert Mitchum, Jane Greer. Courtesy Films Incorporated. 97 min.

April 26. 3, 5:30. "Lady from Shanghai." 1948. Directed by Orson Welles. With Rita Hayworth Orson Welles. Courtesy Columbia Pictures. 87 min.

April 27. 2, 5:30. "White Heat." 1949. Directed by Raoul Walsh. With James Cagney, Virginia Mayo. Courtesy United Artists. 114 min.

April 28. 2, 5:30. "I Walk Alone." 1947. Directed by Byron Haskin. With Burt Lancaster, Elizabeth Scott, Kirk Douglas. Courtesy of Paramount Pictures. 98 min.

April 29. 2, 5:30. "D.O.A." 1949. Directed by Rudolph Maté. With Edmond O'Brien, Pamela Britton. Courtesy National Telefilm Associates. 83 min.

May 1. 2, 5:30, 8. "Kiss Me Deadly." 1955. Directed by Robert Aldrich. With Ralph Meeker, Albert Dekker. Courtesy United Artists. 105 min.

May 2. 2, 5:30. "The Phenix City Story." 1955. Directed by Phil Karlson. With John McIntire Richard Kiley. Courtesy United Artists. 100 min.

May 3. 3, 5:30. "Pickup on South Street." 1953. Directed by Samuel Fuller. With Richard Widmark, Jean Peters. Courtesy Warner Brothers-Seven Arts. 80 min.

May 4. 2, 5:30. "The Big Heat." 1953. Directed by Fritz Lang. With Glenn Ford, Gloria Grahame. Courtesy Columbia Pictures. 89 min.

May 5. 2, 5:30. "The Lineup." 1958. Directed by Don Siegel. With Eli Wallach, Robert Keith. Courtesy Columbia Pictures. 89 min.

May 8. 2, 5:30, 8. "The Case Against Brooklyn." 1958. Directed by Paul Wendkos. With Darren McGavin, Maggie Hayes. Courtesy Columbia Pictures. 82 min.

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- May 9. 2, 5:30. "The Tattered Dress." 1957. Directed by Jack Arnold. With Jeff Chandler, Jeanne Crain. Courtesy Universal Pictures. 93 min.
- May 10. 3, 5:30. "Man in the Shadow." 1957. Directed by Jack Arnold. With Jeff Chandler, Orson Welles. Courtesy Columbia Pictures. 80 min.
- May 11. 2, 5:30. "Touch of Evil." 1958. Directed by Orson Welles. With Charlton Heston, Orson Welles, Janet Leigh. Courtesy Columbia Pictures. 95 min.
- May 12. 2, 5:30. "Sands of Iwo Jima." 1949. Directed by Allan Dwan. With John Wayne, John Agar. Courtesy of National Telefilm Associates. 110 min.
- May 13. 2, 5:30. "The Steel Helmet." 1951. Directed by Samuel Fuller. With Gene Evans, Robert Hutton. Courtesy Adrian Weiss Productions. 84 min.
- May 15. 2, 5:30. "Attack!" 1956. Directed by Robert Aldrich. With Jack Palance, Eddie Albert, Lee Marvin. Courtesy United Artists. 107 min.
- May 16. 2, 5:30. "Ramrod." 1947. Directed by André de Toth. With Veronica Lake, Joel McCrea. Courtesy National Telefilm Associates. 94 min.
- May 17. 3, 5:30. "Seven Men From Now." 1956. Directed by Budd Boetticher. With Randolph Scott, Gail Russell. Courtesy Warner Brothers-Seven Arts. 77 min.
- May 18. 2, 5:30. "The Tall T." 1957. Directed by Budd Boetticher. With Randolph Scott, Richard Boone. Courtesy Columbia Pictures. 78 min.
- May 19. 2, 5:30. "The Last Wagon." 1956. Produced by William B. Hawks. Directed by Delmer Daves. With Richard Widmark, Felicia Farr. Courtesy Warner Brothers-Seven Arts. 98 min.
- May 22. 2, 5:30, 8. "Backlash." 1956. Directed by John Sturges. With Richard Widmark, Donna Reed. Courtesy Universal Pictures. 83 min.
- May 23. 2, 5:30. "Hondo." 1953. Directed by John Farrow. With John Wayne, Geraldine Page. Courtesy Medallion T.V. Enterprises. 84 min.
- May 24. "The Naked Spur." 1953. Directed by Anthony Mann. With James Stewart, Janet Leigh. Courtesy M-G-M. 91 min.
- May 25. 2, 5:30. "Warlock." 1959. Directed by Edward Dmytryk. With Richard Widmark, Henry Fonda. Courtesy Warner Brothers-Seven Arts. 121 min.
- May 26. 2, 5:30. "House of Bamboo." 1955. Directed by Samuel Fuller. With Robert Ryan, Robert Stack. Courtesy Warner Brothers-Seven Arts. 102 min.
- May 27. 2, 5:30. "The Left Handed Gun." 1958. Directed by Arthur Penn. With Paul Newman, Lita Milan. Courtesy Warner Brothers - Seven Arts. 105 min.
- May 29. 2, 5:30, 8. "In A Lonely Place." 1950. Directed by Nicholas Ray. With Humphrey Bogart, Gloria Grahame. Courtesy Columbia Pictures. 92 min.
- May 30. 2, 5:30. "Desert Fury." 1947. Directed by Lewis Allen. With John Hodiak, Burt Lancaster. Courtesy Universal Pictures. 92 min.

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May 31. 3, 5:30. "Written On The Wind." 1956. Directed by Douglas Sirk. With Rock Hudson, Lauren Bacall, Dorothy Malone. Courtesy Universal Pictures. 99 min.

June 1. 2, 5:30. "The Manchurian Candidate." 1962. Directed by John Frankenheimer. With Frank Sinatra, Laurence Harvey, Angela Lansbury. Courtesy United Artists. 126 min.

June 2. 2, 5:30. "Suddenly." 1954. Directed by Lewis Allen. With Frank Sinatra, Sterling Hayden. Courtesy Sinatra Enterprises. 75 min.

June 5. 2, 5:30, 8. "Johnny Cool." 1963. Directed by William Asher. With Henry Silva, Elizabeth Montgomery. Courtesy United Artists. 103 min.

June 6. 2, 5:30. "The Killers." 1964. Directed by Donald Siegel. With Lee Marvin, Angie Dickinson, John Cassavetes. Courtesy Universal Pictures. 95 min.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Lillian Gerard, Film Coordinator, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.