

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART'S "DECADE'S END" SHOW FEATURES

"SEMINAL CINEMA" OF THE 'SIXTIES

The Museum of Modern Art is showing what its Film Department thinks are some "seminal films" of the 'Sixties in the eleven-day "Decade's End" show beginning December 26 and continuing through January 6.

The movies cover a wide range, from pop artist Andy Warhol's "Chelsea Girls" to ethnographer Jean Rouch's "Chronicle of a Summer," from Hitchcock's "Psycho" to Carl Dreyer's "Gertrud." Other films are Antonioni's "L'Avventura," Truffaut's "The Four Hundred Blows," Godard's "Breathless," Fellini's "Eight and A Half," Resnais' "Hiroshima mon Amour," Richard Lester's Beatles film, "A Hard Day's Night," and- the film most recently produced - Dennis Hopper's "Easy Rider."

What does the Museum's Department of Film consider as seminal? It refers to Webster's dictionary which defines seminal as "having the character of an originative power, principle, or source; containing or contributing the seed of later development." The program note for the films points out Antonioni's "depth of vision," Godard's "laconic perception," Hitchcock's "way of telling a story," and Warhol's "way of not telling one." All of this, and more, says the Film Department, has changed the face of film.

"More so than other decades," says Donald Richie, Visiting Curator of Film, "the 'Sixties have been about seeing, about hearing, about experiencing." He admits that the film historian of 2001 may not find many masterpieces among the choices selected "but discovering masterpieces has little to do with the understanding of an art."

Adrienne Mancina, Assistant Curator, notes that film in the 'Sixties has changed. "It always does, but now it seems somehow to have changed more." And not only the film, but the audience as well. The new audiences say, "Show us,

(more)

don't tell us." Larry Kardish of the Film Department finds the choice more pertinent than provocative. "There could have been more - but these eleven films point to where film was going in this decade and some of the films - particularly 'Easy Rider' - point to where it is going from now on."

The program also contains accompanying "seminal" shorts - among them the Leacock-Pennebaker "Primary," Lenica's "Dom," Bruce Conner's "Movie," Scott Bartlett's experimental "Off-On," and - to show with "Easy Rider" - Kenneth Anger's "Scorpio Rising."

* * * * *

Friday, December 26th (2:00 and 5:30)

PRIMARY. 1960. A film by Richard Leacock and D. A. Pennebaker. Courtesy of Time, Inc. 50 minutes.

A BOUT DE SOUFFLE. (BREATHLESS). 1959. Written and directed by Jean-Luc Godard, from an idea by François Truffaut. Photographed by Raoul Coutard. With Jean-Paul Belmondo, Jean Seberg. ENGLISH SUB-TITLES. Courtesy of Contemporary/McGraw-Hill Films. 87 minutes.

Saturday, December 27th (3:00 and 5:30)

PRELUDE: DOG STAR MAN. 1961. A film by Stan Brakhage. Courtesy of Film-Makers' Cooperative. 25 minutes.

CHRONIQUE D'UN ETE (CHRONICLE OF A SUMMER). 1961. Written and directed and with Jean Rouch and Edgar Morin. Photographed by Raoul Coutard. ENGLISH SUB-TITLES. Courtesy of Contemporary/McGraw-Hill Films. 90 minutes.

Sunday, December 28th (2:00 and 5:30)

THE RUNNING, JUMPING AND STANDING STILL FILM. 1959. A film by Richard Lester. Courtesy of Janus Films. 10 minutes.

A HARD DAY'S NIGHT. 1964. Directed by Richard Lester. Written by Alun Owen. With the Beatles. Courtesy of United Artist. 84 minutes.

Monday, December 29 (2:00 and 5:30)

OFF/ON. 1968. A film by Scott Bartlett. 9 minutes.

PSYCHO. 1960. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Written by Joseph Stefano from the novel by Robert Bloch. With Anthony Perkins. Courtesy of Universal/MCA. 109 minutes.

Tuesday, December 30th (2:00 and 5:30)

GERTRUD. 1965. Written and directed by Carl Th. Dreyer. From the novel by Hjelmar Soderberg. With Nina Pens Rode. ENGLISH SUB-TITLES. Courtesy of Contemporary/McGraw-Hill Films. 110 minutes.

Thursday, January 1 (2:00 and 5:30)

A MOVIE. 1959. A film by Bruce Conner. 12 minutes.

LES QUATRE CENTS COUPS (THE FOUR HUNDRED BLOWS). 1959. Written and directed by François Truffaut. Photographed by Henri Decae. With Jean-Pierre Léaud. ENGLISH SUB-TITLES. Courtesy of Janus Films. 98 minutes.

(more)

Friday, January 2nd (2:00 and 5:30)

OTTO E MEZZO (8 1/2). 1963. Directed by Federico Fellini. Photographed by Gianni di Venanzo. With Marcello Mastroianni. ENGLISH SUB-TITLES. Courtesy of Avco/Embassy. 138 minutes.

Saturday, January 3rd (3:00 and 5:30)

DOM. 1959. A film by Jan Lenica and Walerian Borowczyk. Courtesy of Contemporary/McGraw-Hill Films. 12 minutes.
HIROSHIMA MON AMOUR. 1959. Directed by Alain Resnais. Written by Marguerite Duras. With Emmanuelle Riva. In French, ENGLISH SUB-TITLES. Courtesy of Contemporary/McGraw-Hill Films.

Sunday, January 4th (2:00 and 5:30)

L'AVVENTURA. 1959. Directed by Michelangelo Antonioni. With Monica Vitti. ENGLISH SUB-TITLES. Courtesy of Janus Films. 145 minutes.

Monday, January 5th (2:00 ONLY)

THE CHELSEA GIRLS. 1966. A film by Andy Warhol. With Nico, Gerard Malanga, Ondine, Brigid Polk. Courtesy of Factory Films. 210 minutes.

Tuesday, January 6th (2:00 ONLY)

SCORPIO RISING. 1963. A film by Kenneth Anger. 31 minutes.
EASY RIDER. 1969. Directed by Dennis Hopper. Written by Terry Southern, Dennis Hopper, Peter Fonda. Courtesy of Columbia Pictures. 94 minutes.

Additional information and stills available from Lillian Gerard, Film Coordinator, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, New York. 10019. (212) 956-7296,7501.