

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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For additional information:
Lillian Gerard, (212) 956-7296

SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF BRITISH FILM PRODUCTION SURVEYED IN COMPREHENSIVE MUSEUM RETROSPECTIVE

Sixty-five years of British Cinema is the subject of a major film retrospective at The Museum of Modern Art. The British series, the most comprehensive of its kind, starts September 7, and continues for the next two months. It includes seven early works of Alfred Hitchcock, in addition to other landmark films from the British studios.

Herbert Wilcox is represented by "60 Glorious Years," with Anna Neagle; Victor Saville by "Evergreen;" Carol Reed by "Fallen Idol;" Alexander Korda by "Rembrandt," with Charles Laughton and Elsa Lanchester; Gabriel Pascal by George Bernard Shaw's "Caesar and Cleopatra;" and Noel Coward by "In Which We Serve." Almost every genre of film is included in the program, which covers the years 1901 to 1966.

This survey of British film accomplishments was organized by Margareta Akermark, Associate Director of the Department of Film, who received the close cooperation of Ernest Lindgren, Curator of the National Film Archive, British Film Institute, and Colin Ford, his Deputy Curator. The British archive is providing most of the scheduled films. In acknowledgement of its assistance, Miss Akermark pointed out that both the National Film Archive and The Museum of Modern Art Film Library were organized within one month of each other in 1935. They were the first film archives to collect and preserve films in any part of the world. Subsequently, they became charter members of the Federation of International Film Archives, today comprised of some forty nationalities.

Early examples of British films on exhibit are Cecil M. Hepworth's "Trilby," with Sir Herbert Tree, and the Drury Lane production of "Hamlet," also by Hepworth, and with Johnston Forbes-Robertson in the title role. There is also an early version of "The Informer" with Lars Hanson and Lya de Putti, which preceded the John Ford production; a remake of "The Thief of Bagdad," with Sabu and Conrad Veidt, and the

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famous "Dead of Night," an avant-garde supernatural experiment with time.

Alec Guinness is another mainstay of the program, typifying the period of satiric comedies that followed World War II. They were "The Lavender Hill Mob" and "Kind Hearts and Coronets." The comedies, including "I'm All Right Jack" which introduced Peter Sellers were followed by a wave of more serious films. Beginning with "Room at the Top," the new hero became a lower middle-class Midlander whose emotional involvements and conflicts consumed a more personalized British film industry. The anti-hero was a strong departure from the well-clad, well-bred distinguished characters of earlier British films.

The new style was typified by Tony Richardson, who filmed "Look Back in Anger;" and later by Karel Reisz in "Saturday Night, Sunday Morning," and Lindsey Anderson, whose film "This Sporting Life" carried on the tradition of searching, dissatisfied young men, as in "The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner."

It was pointed out by C. A. Lejeune, the film critic, that Hollywood films became increasingly "artificial" to the English during the war, when people began to recognize "the springs of their own behaviour." Until then the British had so favored Hollywood entertainment that it was necessary for the government to establish a quota law to limit the number of American films and help the English producers survive. Champion of English production was Sir Michael Balcon, who has no less than ten films in the present series. Sir Michael, who gave Robert Flaherty the opportunity to make "Man of Aran," one of the early great documentaries, also promoted Alfred Hitchcock from designing titles for silent films to Assistant Director and then Director. He produced Hitchcock's "The Lodger," "Sabotage" and "39 Steps," which constitute the Hitchcock entries along with "Blackmail;" "The Ring," "Young and Innocent," with Nova Pilbeam, and "Waltzes from Vienna," featuring the music of both Johann Strauss elder and junior. This seldom seen Hitchcock film starring Jessie Matthews is not exactly in keeping with his customary style.

The prestige of British films has been won over obstacles, both material and financial, and it gives evidence of an unremitting desire to persevere and to maintain high levels of taste reflective of the British people "in spirit, style and content,"

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according to G. Campbell Dixon, another British critic. "Given Balcon's films between wars, the sociologist of the year 4947 should be able to reconstruct an era- and show how we looked, fed amused or bored ourselves, made love and went to war." Recently Balcon himself commented that the Lumiere Brothers were not so far off the mark in choosing their gardener and his son to be their actors, since people with no acting experience have served some of the greatest filmmakers. The British are inclined to give credit where it is due, but they have thus far been proven modest in evaluating their own films, partly because of a continuing struggle to find themselves in the medium of motion pictures. An insight into their over-all use of film is provided by this show.

The schedule follows:

Thursday, September 9

- (2:00) RICHARD III.* 1911. Cecil M. Hepworth film of play staged at Stratford. ca.20 min. TRILBY (excerpt).* 1914. With Sir Herbert Tree, Vira Birkett. ca.20 min. HAMLET.* 1913. Cecil M. Hepworth film of Drury Lane production, London. With Johnston Forbes-Robertson, Gertrude Elliott. ca.75 min.
- (5:30, 8:00) A BIG SWALLOW.* 1901. By James Williamson. 1 min. A DAY WITH THE GYPSIES.* ca.1904. By Cecil M. Hepworth. ca.10 min. RESCUED BY ROVER.* 1905. By Cecil M. Hepworth. Written by Mrs. Hepworth. With Mrs. Hepworth. ca5 min. COMIN' THRO THE RYE.* 1916. By Cecil M. Hepworth. With Stewart Rome, Alma Taylor. ca.100 min.

Friday, September 10

- (2:00) SQUIBS WINS THE CALCUTTA SWEEP.* 1922. Directed by George Pearson. With Betty Balfour, Hugh E. Wright. ca.85 min.
- (5:30) THE RAT.* 1925. Produced by Michael Balcon. Written and directed by J. H. Graham Cutts. From a script by Ivor Novello and Constance Collier. With Ivor Novello, Mae Marsh. ca.85 min.

Saturday, September 11

- (3:00) THE LODGER.* 1926. Produced by Michael Balcon. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. With Ivor Novello. ca.65 min.
- (5:30) BLACKMAIL. 1929. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. With Anny Ondra, Sara Allgood. 86 min.

Sunday, September 12 (2:00, 5:30) THE RING.* 1927. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. With Clark Brisson, Lillian Hall-Davies. ca.120 min.

Monday, September 13

- (1:00) THE RAT.* (see Friday, September 10)

Tuesday, September 14

- (5:30) SQUIBS WINS THE CALCUTTA SWEEP.* (see Friday, September 10)

Thursday, September 16

- (2:00) JUNO AND THE PAYCOCK. 1930. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. With Barry Fitzgerald, Sara Allgood. 85 min.
- (5:30) A COTTAGE ON DARTMOOR.* 1929. Directed by Anthony Asquith. With Nora Baring, Hans von Schlettow. ca.75 min.
- (8:00) PICCADILLY.* 1928. By E. A. Dupont. With Gilda Gray, Anna May Wong, Cyril Ritchard. ca.90 min.

Friday, September 17

(2:00, 5:30) THE GIRL WAS YOUNG (YOUNG AND INNOCENT). 1937. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. With Derrick de Marney, Nova Pilbeam. 84 min.

Saturday, September 18

(3:00) SABOTAGE (THE WOMAN ALONE). 1936. Produced by Michael Balcon and Ivor Montagu. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. With Silvia Sydney, Oscar Homolka. 76 min.

(5:30) THE 39 STEPS. 1935. Produced by Michael Balcon and Ivor Montagu. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. With Madeleine Carroll, Robert Donat. 81 min.

Sunday, September 19

(2:00, 5:30) WALTZES FROM VIENNA. 1933. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Music by Johann Strauss the Elder and Younger. With Jessie Matthews, Esmond Knight, Fay Compton. 80 min.

Monday, September 20

(1:00) PICCADILLY.* (see Thursday, September 16)

(3:30) CATCH OF THE SEASON. 1937. Directed by Mary Field. 9 min. THE PRIVATE LIFE OF THE GANNETS. 1935. Directed and narrated by Julian Huxley. 15 min. BLUEBOTTLES.* 1928. Directed by Ivor Montagu. From a short story by H. G. Wells. With Elsa Lanchester, Charles Laughton. 32 min.

Tuesday, September 21 (5:30) THE INFORMER.* 1929. Directed by Arthur Robison. Adapted from the novel by Liam O'Flaherty. With Lars Hanson, Lya de Putti. ca.85 min.

Wednesday, September 22

(12:00) SONG OF CEYLON. 1934. Produced by John Grierson. Directed by Basil Wright. 40 min. Four films by Len Lye: COLOR BOX, 1935; TRADE TATTOO, 1937; MUSICAL POSTER NUMBER ONE, 1939; SWINGING THE LAMBETH WALK, 1940. 18 min.

(2:00) SHOOTING STARS.* 1926. Directed by Anthony Asquith and A. V. Bramble. With Annette Benson, Brian Aherne. ca.70 min.

(5:30) DAWN.* 1928. Directed by Herbert Wilcox. With Sybil Thorndike, Gordon Craig. ca.75 min.

Thursday, September 23

(2:00, 8:00) EVERGREEN. 1934. Directed by Victor Saville. Music and lyrics by Richard Rodgers, Lorenz Hart, Harry M. Woods. With Jessie Matthews, Betty Balfour, Sonnie Hale. 94 min.

(5:30) MOULIN ROUGE.* 1928. Directed by E. A. Dupont. With Olga Tschekova, Eve Gray. ca.80 min.

Friday, September 24

(2:00, 5:30) THREE ON A WEEKEND (BANK HOLIDAY). 1939. Directed by Carol Reed. With John Lodge, Margaret Lockwood, Hugh Williams. 86 min.

Saturday, September 25

(3:00, 5:30) REMBRANDT. 1936. Produced and directed by Alexander Korda. With Charles Laughton, Elsa Lanchester. 84 min.

Sunday, September 26 (2:00, 5:30) THE THIEF OF BAGDAD. 1939-40. Produced by Alexander Korda. Directed by Michael Powell and Ludwig Berger. With Sabu, Conrad Veidt, Stewart Granger. 109 min.

Monday, September 27 (1:00) ON APPROVAL. 1944. Written and directed by Clive Brook. With Beatrice Lillie, Clive Brook, Googie Withers. 78 min.

(3:30) Same program as Wednesday, September 22, at noon.

Tuesday, September 28 (5:30) ON APPROVAL. (see Monday, September 27)

Wednesday, September 29

- (12:00) GRANTON TRAWLER. 1934. Produced and photographed by John Grierson. Directed by Edgar Anstey. 11 min. THE TRANSFER OF POWER. 1939. Produced by Arthur Elton. 22 min. SQUADRON 992. 1939. Produced by Alberto Cavalcanti. 24 min.
(2:00, 5:30) 60 GLORIOUS YEARS. 1938. Directed by Herbert Wilcox. With Anna Neagle, Anton Walbrook. 85 min.

Thursday, September 30

- (2:00) THE INFORMER.* (see Tuesday, September 21)
(5:30, 8:00) THEY DRIVE BY NIGHT. 1938. Directed by Arthur Woods. With Emyln Williams, Ernest Thesiger. 84 min.

- Friday, October 1 (2:00, 5:30) OH, MR. PORTER. 1937. Directed by Marcel Varnel. With Will Hay, Moore Marriott. 85 min.

- Saturday, October 2 (3:00, 5:30) SIDEWALKS OF LONDON (ST. MARTIN'S LANE). 1940. Directed by Tim Whelan. With Charles Laughton, Vivien Leigh. 80 min.

- Sunday, October 3 (2:00, 5:30) CAESAR AND CLEOPATRA. 1944. Produced and directed by Gabriel Pascal. Written by George Bernard Shaw. With Vivien Leigh, Claude Rains, Stewart Granger. 115 min.

- Monday, October 4 (1:00) THE FALLEN IDOL. 1948. Produced by Alexander Korda. Directed by Carol Reed. Written by Graham Greene. With Ralph Richardson, Michele Morgan, Bobby Henrey. 92 min.

- (3:30) Same program as Wednesday, September 29, at noon.

Wednesday, October 6

- (12:00) Short comedies.* 1903-4. 22 min. NIGHT MAIL. 1936. Produced by John Grierson. Directed by Harry Watt and Basil Wright. Music by Benjamin Britten. Verse by W. H. Auden. 30 min.
(2:00, 5:30) IN WHICH WE SERVE. 1942. Written, produced, scored and co-directed by Noël Coward. Co-directed by David Lean. With Richard Attenborough, Noël Coward, John Mills. 113 min.

Thursday, October 7

- (2:00) DEAD OF NIGHT. 1946. Directed by Charles Crichton, Basil Dearden, Robert Hamer, Alberto Cavalcanti. With Michael Redgrave, Sally Ann Howes, Mervyn Johns. 104 min.
(5:30) THE FALLEN IDOL. (see Monday, October 4.)
(8:00) RICHARD III, TRILBY, and HAMLET*. (see Thursday, September 9)

- Friday, October 8 (2:00, 5:30) THE LIFE AND DEATH OF COLONEL BLIMP. 1945. Produced and directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger. With Ronald Culver, Deborah Kerr, Roger Livesey. 131 min.

- Saturday, October 9 (3:00, 5:30) THE OVERLANDERS. 1946. Directed by Harry Watt. With Chips Rafferty, Daphne Campbell. 92 min.

- Sunday, October 10 (2:00, 5:30) DRIFTERS.* 1929. By John Grierson. Camera by Basil Emmett. 40 min. 90 DEGREES SOUTH. 1910-33. By H. G. Ponting. 75 min.

- Monday, October 11 (1:00) TIGHT LITTLE ISLAND (WHISKEY GALORE). 1949. Directed by Alexander Mackendrick. With Basil Radford, Joan Greenwood, James Robertson Justice. 81 min.

- (3:30) Same program as Wednesday, October 6, at noon.

Wednesday, October 13

- (12:00) EVERY DAY EXCEPT CHRISTMAS. 1957. Produced by L. Clore and Karel Reisz. Directed by Lindsay Anderson. 40 min. THE RUNNING, JUMPING AND STANDING STILL FILM. 1959. Directed by Richard Lester. Produced by Peter Sellers. 11 min.
(2:00, 5:30) GANG WAR (ODD MAN OUT). 1947. Directed by Carol Reed. With James Mason, Kathleen Ryan, Robert Newton. 115 min.

Thursday, October 14

- (2:00, 8:00) STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN (A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH). 1946. Produced, written and directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger. With Marius Goring, David Niven, Raymond Massey. 106 min.
- (5:30) BRIEF ENCOUNTER. 1946. Produced and written by Noël Coward. Directed by David Lean. With Trevor Howard, Celia Johnson, Stanley Holloway. 85 min.

Friday, October 15 (2:00, 5:30) THUNDER ROCK. 1942. Produced by John Boulting. Directed by Roy Boulting. With James Mason, Michael Redgrave, Lillie Palmer. 95 min.

Saturday, October 16 (3:00, 5:30) KIND HEARTS AND CORONETS. 1949. Directed by Robert Hamer. With Alec Guinness, Dennis Price, Joan Greenwood. 105 min.

Sunday, October 17 (2:00, 5:30) HENRY V. 1946. Produced and directed by Laurence Olivier. From the play by Shakespeare. With Olivier, Renee Asherson, Leo Genn, Robert Newton. 137 min.

Monday, October 18 (1:00) THE LAVENDER HILL MOB. 1951. Directed by Charles Crichton. With Alec Guinness, Stanley Holloway. 80 min.

(3:30) Same program as Wednesday, October 13, at noon.

Wednesday, October 20

- (12:00) Short dramas.* 1903-4. 30 min. THURSDAY'S CHILDREN. 1954. Written and directed by Guy Brenton and Lindsay Anderson. Narrated by Richard Burton. 22 min.
- (2:00, 5:30) THE MAN IN THE WHITE SUIT. 1952. Produced by Michael Balcon. Directed by Alexander Mackendrick. With Alec Guinness, Joan Greenwood, Cecil Parker. 85 min.

Thursday, October 21

- (2 & 8:00) I'M ALL RIGHT JACK. 1959. Directed by John Boulting. With Peter Sellers, Richard Attenborough, Terry-Thomas. 104 min.
- (5:30) GENEVIEVE. 1953. Produced and directed by Henry Cornelius. With Kay Kendall, John Gregson, Kenneth More. 82 min.

Friday, October 22 (2:00, 5:30) CARRY ON NURSE. 1959. Directed by Gerald Thomas. With Jerry Langdon, Hattie Jacques, Kenneth Connor. 88 min.

Saturday, October 23 (3:00, 5:30) ANOTHER SKY. 1954. Written and directed by Gavin Lambert. With Victoria Grayson, Catherine Lacey. 83 min.

Sunday, October 24 (2:00, 5:30) PEEPING TOM. 1959. Produced and directed by Michael Powell. With Carl Boehm, Moira Shearer, Anna Massey. 109 min.

Monday, October 25 (1:00) DRACULA (HORROR OF DRACULA). 1959. Directed by Terence Fisher. With Peter Cushing, Christopher Lee. 82 min.

(3:30) Same program as Wednesday, October 20, at noon.

Tuesday, October 26 (5:30) DRACULA (see Monday, October 25)

Wednesday, October 27

- (12:00) Two films by Humphrey Jennings: LISTEN TO BRITAIN. 1942. Produced by Ian Dalrymple. 20 min. A DIARY FOR TIMOTHY. 1944. Narrated by Michael Redgrave. With John Gielgud, Myra Hess. 38 min.
- (2:00, 5:30) ORDERS TO KILL. 1958. Directed by Anthony Asquith. With Paul Massie, Eddie Albert, Lillian Gish. 111 min.

Friday, October 29 (2:00, 5:30) A HARD DAY'S NIGHT. 1964. Produced by Walter Shenson. Directed by Richard Lester. With The Beatles, Wilfred Brambell. 90 min.

Saturday, October 30 (3:00, 5:30) THE CRIMINAL (THE CONCRETE JUNGLE). 1960. Directed by Joseph Losey. With Stanley Baker, Sam Wanamaker. 97 min.

Sunday, October 31 (2:00, 5:30) SAMMY GOING SOUTH (A BOY TEN FEET TALL). 1965. Produced by Michael Balcon. Directed by Alexander Mackendrick. With Edward G. Robinson. 88 min.

Monday, November 1 (1:00) THE EPIC THAT NEVER WAS. 1965. Written and produced by Bill Duncalf for B.B.C. Including material from Joseph von Sternberg's unfinished film, "I Claudius." Narrated by Dirk Bogarde. 75 min.

(3:30) Same program as Wednesday, October 27, at noon.

Tuesday, November 2 (5:30) THE EPIC THAT NEVER WAS. (see Monday, November 1)

Wednesday, November 3 (2:00, 5:30) NIGHT OF THE DEMON (CURSE OF THE DEMON). 1957. Directed by Jacques Tourneur. With Dana Andrews, Peggy Cummins. 82 min.

Thursday, November 4

(2:00) ROOM AT THE TOP. 1958. Produced by John and James Woolf. Directed by Jack Clayton. With Laurence Harvey, Simone Signoret, Heather Sears. 116 min.

(5:30) SATURDAY NIGHT AND SUNDAY MORNING. 1960. Produced by Harry Saltzman and Tony Richardson. Directed by Karel Reisz. With Albert Finney, Rachel Roberts. 90 min.

(8:00) THIS SPORTING LIFE. 1963. Produced by Karel Reisz. Directed by Lindsay Anderson. With Richard Harris, Rachel Roberts. 126 min.

Friday, November 5 (2:00, 5:30) A KIND OF LOVING. 1962. Directed by John Schlesinger. With Alan Bates, June Ritchie, Thora Hird. 112 min.

Saturday, November 6 (3:00, 5:30) SPARROWS CAN'T SING. 1963. Produced by Donald Taylor. Directed by Joan Littlewood. With James Booth, Barbara Windsor, Roy Kinnear. 93 min.

Sunday, November 7 (2:00, 5:30) TOGETHER. 1955. Directed by Lorenza Mazzetti. 60 min. CULLODEN (BATTLE OF CULLODEN). 1966. Produced by B.B.C. Directed by Peter Watkins. 55min.

Monday, November 8 (1:00) TOGETHER and CULLODEN. (see Sunday, November 7)

Wednesday, November 10 (2:00, 5:30) THE CARETAKER. 1963. Produced by Michael Birkett. Written by Harold Pinter from his stage play. With Alan Bates, Donald Pleasance, Robert Shaw. 105 min.

Thursday, November 11

(2:00) TOM JONES. 1963. Produced and directed by Tony Richardson. Screenplay by John Osborn from Henry Fielding's novel. Camera by Walter Lassally. With Albert Finney, Susannah York, Hugh Griffith, Joan Greenwood. 127 min.

(5:30) LOOK BACK IN ANGER. 1959. Directed by Tony Richardson. With Claire Bloom, Richard Burton, Mary Ure. 99 min.

(8:00) LONLINESS OF THE LONG DISTANCE RUNNER. 1962. Produced and directed by Tony Richardson. With Tom Courtenay, Alex McCowan, Michael Redgrave. 103 min.

Friday, November 12 (2:00, 5:30) CATCH US IF YOU CAN (HAVING A WILD WEEKEND). 1965. Produced by David Deutsch. Directed by John Boorman. With The Dave Clark Five. 91 min.

*Silent film. PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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