

The Museum of Modern Art

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"THE MUSICAL FILM:" LECTURES ON AMERICA'S FILM HERITAGE

The Museum of Modern Art will offer a program on the history of the American musical film, consisting of eight lectures on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., scheduled to run from March 11 through April 5 as the second of this year's LOOKING AT FILM series of film courses.

"The Musical Film" will be conducted by Albert Johnson, for many years the program director of the San Francisco Film Festival and currently an assistant professor at the University of California at Berkeley. Each lecture will be accompanied by numerous excerpts of important film musicals, and screenings of full-length features will be interspersed during the run of the series.

"This course is intended to provide a comprehensive historical survey of this genre," commented Program Coordinator Stephen Harvey, who considers the musical genre one of the most distinctive accomplishments of the American screen.

Commencing with the earliest "100% All-Talking, All-Singing, All-Dancing" efforts of the early sound era, the series will examine the classic movie musicals of the forties and fifties, such as "Meet Me In St. Louis" and "The Band Wagon," followed by a discussion of their present-day successors, including "Saturday Night Fever" and "A Little Night Music."

Mr. Johnson will explore the work of some of the renowned performers, directors, writers and composers who have made the film musical such an integral part of our popular culture--Busby Berkeley, Vincente Minnelli, Fred Astaire, Judy Garland, Gene Kelly, Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Bob

Fosse, George and Ira Gershwin--as well as those figures whose contributions to the field have not received sufficient attention in the past. For example, the series will feature a special additional program on Sunday, April 2 devoted to the work of singer Kay Thompson, who as vocal arranger for the famed Arthur Freed Unit at M-G-M, was responsible for the distinctive sound of many of the legendary post-war musicals.

Funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities as a Learning Museum Program, the LOOKING AT FILM program has been designed to make serious film study accessible at nominal cost (\$15 for the entire series) to the general public as well as film specialists. For further information, write to LOOKING AT FILM at The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019, or telephone (212) 956-4214.

LOOKING AT FILM gratefully acknowledges the help and cooperation of the following persons and organizations in obtaining films to accompany this lecture series: Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc., Films, Inc., Mr. Douglas Lemza, United Artists Corporation, Twentieth Century-Fox, Universal Pictures, Mr. Laurence Mark, Paramount Pictures, RKO-General Pictures, Warner Brothers Inc., CBS Inc., Mr. Harold Prince, Mr. Roger Corman, New World Pictures, Columbia Pictures Industries, the UCLA Film Archives, Mr. James Card, Allied Artists Pictures Corporation, Ivy Film, and Macmillan-Audio Brandon.