

The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



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MICHAEL POWELL FILM RETROSPECTIVE OPENS AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

A retrospective of the films of noted British producer-director-writer, Michael Powell, including his work with his longtime associate, writer-producer Emeric Pressburger, will be presented by the Department of Film of The Museum of Modern Art. Both have been critically acclaimed for their prestigious contribution to the art of the cinema. This major exhibition, MICHAEL POWELL, AND POWELL & PRESSBURGER, will be shown beginning November 20, 1980 and will continue through January 5, 1981.

Michael Powell will attend the Museum's retrospective with the American premiere of RETURN TO THE EDGE OF THE WORLD. The New York theatrical opening of this film will follow the opening night of the Museum's retrospective. The theater and date will be announced shortly. THE EDGE OF THE WORLD was originally released in 1937 and received the New York Film Critics Award. In late 1978, Powell returned to the island off the coast of Scotland to film in color a half-hour personal commentary on the people and conditions that served as background for the original film. Powell used this new film footage to further enhance the dramatic content of the original story and to serve as an introduction and epilogue to the original film.

Among the significant films included in the Museum's show are Powell's 49th PARALLEL, THE QUEEN'S GUARDS, THE THIEF OF BAGDAD, and Powell & Pressburger's THE RED SHOES, BLACK NARCISSUS, THE ELUSIVE PIMPERNEL, and STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN (A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH). Of the 34 films to be shown in the Museum's Roy and

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Niuta Titus Auditorium, are four films which will be presented for the first time in New York in their original uncut versions: THE LIFE AND DEATH OF COLONEL BLIMP, A CANTERBURY TALE, THE SMALL BACK ROOM, and GONE TO EARTH (released in the United States as THE WILD HEART).

Represented in the retrospective are Moira Shearer, Margaret Leighton, Robert Helpmann, David Niven, Jack Hawkins, Cyril Cusack, Jennifer Jones, Peter Finch, Wendy Hiller, Anthony Quayle, Eric Portman, Laurence Olivier, Conrad Veidt, Valerie Hobson, Anton Walbrook, Leslie Howard, Sybil Thorndyke, and many others.

Leading film historians have referred to Michael Powell as "the greatest director in the history of British cinema, and the one with by far the most original and coherent body of work..."; "a writer-director, who in an extraordinary rich range of films did not hesitate to explore the wilder, darker shores of man's nature..."; "one of the cinema's supreme visual stylists."

The retrospective, highlighting Powell's and Pressburger's prodigious body of work, has been organized by Adrienne Mancia, Curator of Film Exhibitions. Documentation for the program will be written by William K. Everson, noted film historian and teacher, and special consultant for the Powell retrospective.

A complete list of the films in the retrospective and their show dates will be announced separately.

Apart from the crucial role of the National Film Archives of the British Film Institute in this retrospective, other organizations and individuals contributing to the exhibition are the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Children's Film Foundation, Columbia Pictures, Corinth Films, EMI, William Everson, the Imperial War Museum, ITC, Janus Films, Kino International Corporation, the Learning Corporation of America, London Films, National Telefilm Associates, Rank Film Distributors Ltd., Selznick Properties, and Twentieth Century-Fox.

MICHAEL POWELL, AND POWELL & PRESSBURGER has been made possible through the support of the Roy and Niuta Titus Fund, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the New York State Council on the Arts.

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Press Information: Contact Ruth Pologe Levinson Group
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For press screening schedule, see enclosed sheet.

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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PRESS SCREENINGS

MICHAEL POWELL, AND POWELL & PRESSBURGER

Monday, Nov. 10	1:30	THE SMALL BACK ROOM (1949). 108 min.
Tuesday, Nov. 11	10:00	THE LIFE AND DEATH OF COLONEL BLIMP (1943). 158 min.
	2:00	A CANTERBURY TALE (1944). 124 min.
Thursday, Nov. 13	2:00	BLACK NARCISSUS (1947). 100 min.
	3:45	I KNOW WHERE I'M GOING (1945). 92 min.
Friday, Nov. 14	10:00 (AUD.)	THE QUEEN'S GUARDS (1961). 112 min.
	1:30	RED ENSIGN (1934) and CROWN V. STEVENS (1936). Each ca. 70 min. Total: 140 min.
Monday, Nov. 17	2:00	GONE TO EARTH (1950). 110 min.
Tuesday, Nov. 18	2:00	ONE OF OUR AIRCRAFT IS MISSING (1942). 106 min.

All screenings to be held in the 4th floor screening room at The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, with the exception of THE QUEEN'S GUARDS which will be shown in the Roy and Niuta Titus Auditorium at the Museum.

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