

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
October 1986

## "MELODRAMATICS" CONTINUES BRITISH FILM: TRADITIONS AT MoMA BEGINNING NOVEMBER 7

236

Fantasy, mystery, stylized realism, and the Gothic characterize the sixty-eight films comprising "Melodramatics," the fourth section of BRITISH FILM: TRADITIONS, at The Museum of Modern Art. "Melodramatics" includes works from 1920 through 1982, created by such directors as Alfred Hitchcock, Michael Powell, Thorold Dickinson, and Joseph Losey. The exhibition opens on Friday, November 7, with Dickinson's horror film The Queen of Spades (1949) at 2:30 p.m., and a new Technicolor print of Powell and Emeric Pressburger's Black Narcissus (1947) at 6:00 p.m.

Romance and horror films form the two poles bracketing the wide range of works in "Melodramatics." Films about ill-fated love include such melodramas from Gainsborough Studios as Leslie Arliss's The Man in Grey (1943) and The Wicked Lady (1945) and Bernard Knowles's supernatural A Place of One's Own (1945), all starring James Mason and Margaret Lockwood. Hammer Films, the studio known for its works of horror, is represented in "Melodramatics" by Terence Fisher's The Curse of Frankenstein (1957), Dracula (U.S.: Horror of Dracula, 1958), The Hound of the Baskervilles (1959), and The Gorgon (1964), all starring Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee.

Detective and mystery films, from Maurice Elvey's At the Villa Rose (1920) to Peter Greenaway's The Draughtsman's Contract (1982), dot the span of titles in "Melodramatics." Among these are Dickinson's rare The Arsenal Stadium Mystery (1939) and Gaslight (U.S.: Angel Street, 1940), remade in 1944 in this country by George Cukor; Herbert Mason's Strange Boarders (1938); Roy Boulting's Trunk

- more -

Crime (U.S.: Design for Murder, 1939); and Paul Stein's Poison Pen (1939), remade in 1943 in France as Le Corbeau/The Raven by Henri-Georges Clouzot.

Of the directors best known in the United States, Hitchcock is represented by The Lady Vanishes (1938) and a program of both silent and sound versions of Blackmail (1929). Among the works by Powell and Pressburger are A Canterbury Tale (1944), A Matter of Life and Death (U.S.: Stairway to Heaven, 1946), and Gone to Earth (U.S.: The Wild Heart, 1950). Films by Losey, who was blacklisted in this country before emigrating to the United Kingdom, include The Sleeping Tiger (1954), with Dirk Bogarde, and The Intimate Stranger (U.S.: Finger of Guilt, 1956), both directed under pseudonyms. Losey's Blind Date (U.S.: Chance Meeting, 1959) and The Criminal (U.S.: The Concrete Jungle, 1960), also in this exhibition, helped revive his reputation in the United States.

Several of the films in "Melodramatics" contain exceptional performances. Among these are Ralph Richardson's portrayal of a man driven to murder in Brian Desmond Hurst's On the Night of the Fire (U.S.: The Fugitive, 1939); Diana Dors's portrait of Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in England, in J. Lee Thompson's Yield to the Night (U.S.: Blonde Sinner, 1956), based on the same case as last year's Dance with a Stranger; and Kathleen Byron's sexually obsessed Sister Ruth, the schizophrenic nun in Black Narcissus.

Accompanying the exhibition is the anthology All Our Yesterdays: 90 Years of British Cinema, edited by Charles Barr and published this year by the British Film Institute in association with The Museum of Modern Art. The book is available in the Museum Bookstore. Program notes compiled by Clyde Jeavons, former deputy curator of the National Film Archive of the British Film Institute, will be available at the film screenings.

"Melodramatics" continues through February 12, 1987, in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1. A complete schedule is enclosed.

BRITISH FILM is jointly organized by the staff of the National Film Archive of the British Film Institute, including Elaine Burrows, David Francis, David Meeker, and Michelle Snapes; and Laurence Kardish and Adrienne Mancina, curators in the Museum's Department of Film. The exhibition is made possible through the support of Pearson, London, with additional support provided by the British Council, London.

No. 93

\*\*\*\*\*

For further press information and photographic materials, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9752.

# The Museum of Modern Art

BRITISH FILM: TRADITIONS  
"Melodramatics"

November 7, 1986 - February 12, 1987

## Schedule

All film screenings are in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1, unless otherwise noted.

### Friday, November 7

2:30 p.m.: The Queen of Spades. 1949. Thorold Dickinson. With Anton Walbrook, Edith Evans. 95 min.

6:00 p.m.: Black Narcissus. 1947. Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger. With Deborah Kerr, Sabu, David Farrar, Flora Robson, Jean Simmons, Kathleen Byron. 100 min.

### Saturday, November 8

2:00 p.m.: The Man in Grey. 1943. Leslie Arliss. With Margaret Lockwood, Phyllis Calvert, James Mason, Stewart Granger. 116 min.

5:00 p.m.: The Wicked Lady. 1945. Leslie Arliss. With Margaret Lockwood, James Mason, Patricia Roc, Griffith Jones. 104 min.

### Sunday, November 9

2:00 p.m.: A Canterbury Tale. 1944. Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger. With Eric Portman, Sheila Sim, Dennis Price. 124 min.

5:00 p.m.: A Matter of Life and Death (U.S.: Stairway to Heaven). 1949. Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger. With David Niven, Roger Livesey, Kim Hunter, Raymond Massey. 104 min.

### Monday, November 10

2:30 p.m.: Gaslight (U.S.: Angel Street). 1940. Thorold Dickinson. With Anton Walbrook, Diana Wynyard. 88 min.

6:00 p.m.: The Queen of Spades. See Friday, November 7, at 2:30.

### Tuesday, November 11

2:30 p.m.: Black Narcissus. See Friday, November 7, at 6:00.

6:00 p.m.: Gaslight (U.S.: Angel Street). See Monday, November 10, at 2:30.

### Friday, November 14

2:30 p.m.: The Wicked Lady. See Saturday, November 8, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m.: The Man in Grey. See Saturday, November 8, at 2:00.

### Saturday, November 15

2:00 p.m.: Brief Ecstasy. 1937. Edmond T. Greville. With Paul Lukas, Hugh Williams, Marie Ney. 71 min.

5:00 p.m.: Strange Boarders. 1939. Herbert Mason, With Tom Walls, Renée Saint-Cyr, Gogie Withers. 79 min.

### Sunday, November 16

2:00 p.m.: The Man Who Knew Too Much. 1934. Alfred Hitchcock. With Leslie Banks, Edna Best, Peter Lorre, Nova Pilbeam. 75 min.

5:00 p.m.: The Lady Vanishes. 1938. Alfred Hitchcock. With Margaret Lockwood, Michael Redgrave, Paul Lukas, Dame May Whitty. 95 min.

- over -

**Tuesday, November 18**

2:30 p.m.: A Matter of Life and Death (U.S.: Stairway To Heaven). See Sunday, November 9, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m.: A Canterbury Tale. See Sunday, November 9, at 2:00.

**Friday, November 21**

2:30 p.m.: At the Villa Rose. 1920. Maurice Elvey. With Manora Thew. Silent film. App. 80 min.

6:00 p.m.: Trapped by the Mormons. 1922. H.B. Parkinson. With Evelyn Brent. Silent film. App. 70 min.

**Saturday, November 22**

2:00 p.m.: They Drive by Night. 1938. Arthur Woods. With Emlyn Williams, Ernest Thesiger. 84 min.

5:00 p.m.: The Arsenal Stadium Mystery. 1939. Thorold Dickinson. With Leslie Banks, Greta Gynt. 84 min.

**Sunday, November 23**

2:00 p.m.: The Nursemaid Who Disappeared. 1939. Arthur Woods. With Arthur Margetson, Peter Coke. 86 min.

5:00 p.m.: Poison Pen. 1939. Paul Stein. With Flora Robson, Robert Newton, Ann Todd. 79 min.

**Monday, November 24**

2:30 p.m.: Trapped by the Mormons. See Friday, November 21, at 6:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m.: At the Villa Rose. See Friday, November 21, at 2:30.

**Tuesday, November 25**

2:30 p.m.: Shooting Stars. 1928. A.V. Bramble and Anthony Asquith. With Annette Benson, Brian Aherne, Donald Calthrop. Silent film. App. 75 min.

6:00 p.m.: The Informer. 1929. Arthur Robinson. With Lya de Putti, Lars Hansen. Silent film. 83 min.

**Friday, November 28**

2:30 p.m.: The Informer. See Tuesday, November 25, at 6:00.

6:00 p.m.: Blackmail. 1929. Alfred Hitchcock. With Anny Ondra (spoken by Joan Barry), Donald Calthrop, Cyril Ritchard, Sara Allgood. Both silent and sound versions. 75 min. (silent) and 82 min. TITUS 2

**Saturday, November 29**

2:00 p.m.: On the Night of the Fire (U.S.: The Fugitive). 1939. Brian Desmond Hurst. With Ralph Richardson, Diana Wynyard. 94 min.

5:00 p.m.: Dangerous Moonlight (U.S.: Suicide Squadron). 1941. Brian Desmond Hurst. With Anton Walbrook, Sally Gray, Derrick de Marney. 98 min.

**Sunday, November 30**

2:00 p.m.: I Know Where I'm Going. 1945. Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger. With Roger Livesey, Wendy Hiller. 92 min.

5:00 p.m.: Brief Encounter. 1945. David Lean. With Celia Johnson, Trevor Howard, Stanley Holloway. 86 min.

**Monday, December 1**

2:30 p.m.: Blackmail. See Friday, November 28, at 6:00.

6:00 p.m.: Shooting Stars. See Tuesday, November 25, at 2:30.

**Tuesday, December 2**

2:30 p.m.: High Treason. 1929. Maurice Elvey. With Benita Hume, Jameson Thomas. French intertitles. Silent film. App. 80 min.

6:00 p.m.: Piccadilly. 1929. E.A. Dupont. With Gilda Gray, Anna May Wong, Charles Laughton, Jameson Thomas. Silent film. 105 min.

**Friday, December 5**

2:30 p.m.: Piccadilly. See Tuesday, December 2, at 6:00.

6:00 p.m.: High Treason. See Tuesday, December 2, at 2:30.

**Saturday, December 6**

2:00 p.m.: Trunk Crime (U.S.: Design for Murder). 1939. Roy Boulting. 51 min.

5:00 p.m.: A Place of One's Own. 1945. Bernard Knowles. With James Mason, Margaret Lockwood, Dennis Price. 92 min.

**Sunday, December 7**

- 2:00 p.m.: Green for Danger. 1946. Sidney Gilliat. With Trevor Howard, Alastair Sim, Sally Gray, Rosamund John. 91 min.  
5:00 p.m.: I See a Dark Stranger (U.S.: The Adventuress). 1946. Frank Launder. With Deborah Kerr, Trevor Howard, Raymond Huntley. 112 min.

**Tuesday, December 9**

- 2:30 p.m.: Strange Boarders. See Saturday, November 15, at 5:00.  
6:00 p.m.: Brief Ecstasy. See Saturday, November 15, at 2:00.

**Friday, December 12**

- 2:30 p.m.: The Lady Vanishes. See Sunday, November 16, at 5:00.  
6:00 p.m.: Odd Man Out. 1947. Carol Reed. With James Mason, Kathleen Ryan, Robert Beatty, Cyril Cusack, Fay Compton. 113 min.

**Saturday, December 13**

- 2:00 p.m.: The Upturned Glass. 1947. Lawrence Huntington. With James Mason, Rosamund John. 86 min.  
5:00 p.m.: Corridor of Mirrors. 1948. Terence Young. With Eric Portman, Edana Romney. (Courtesy Raymond Rohauer). 105 min.

**Monday, December 15**

- 2:30 p.m.: The Arsenal Stadium Mystery. See Saturday, November 22, at 5:00.  
6:00 p.m.: They Drive by Night. See Saturday, November 22, at 2:00.

**Tuesday, December 16**

- 2:30 p.m.: Poison Pen. See Sunday, November 23, at 5:00.  
6:00 p.m.: The Nursemaid Who Disappeared. See Sunday, November 23, at 2:00.

**Friday, December 19**

- 2:30 p.m.: Dangerous Moonlight (U.S.: Suicide Squadron). See Saturday, November 29, at 5:00.  
6:00 p.m.: On the Night of the Fire (U.S.: The Fugitive). See Saturday, November 29, at 2:00.

**Saturday, December 20**

- 2:00 p.m.: Noose (U.S.: The Silk Noose). 1948. Edmond T. Greville. With Carol Landis, Derek Farr, Joseph Calleia, Stanley Holloway. 95 min.  
5:00 p.m.: The Small Back Room (U.S.: Hour of Glory). 1949. Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger. With David Farrar, Kathleen Byron, Jack Hawkins. 108 min.

**Sunday, December 21**

- 2:00 p.m.: The Intimate Stranger (U.S.: Finger of Guilt). 1956. Joseph Losey. With Richard Basehart, Mary Murphy, Constance Cummings, Roger Livesey. 95 min.  
5:00 p.m.: The Sleeping Tiger. 1954. Joseph Losey. With Dirk Bogarde, Alexis Smith, Alexander Knox, Hugh Griffith. 89 min.

**Monday, December 22**

- 2:30 p.m.: A Place of One's Own. See Saturday, December 6, at 5:00.  
6:00 p.m.: Trunk Crime (U.S.: Design for Murder). See Saturday, December 6, at 2:00.

**Tuesday, December 23**

- 2:30 p.m.: I See a Dark Stranger. (U.S.: The Adventuress). See Sunday, December 7, at 5:00.  
6:00 p.m.: Green for Danger. See Sunday, December 7, at 2:00.

**Friday, December 26**

- 2:30 p.m.: Brief Encounter. See Sunday, November 30, at 5:00.  
6:00 p.m.: I Know Where I'm Going. See Sunday, November 30, at 2:00.

**Saturday, December 27**

- 2:00 p.m.: The Hasty Heart. 1949. Vincent Sherman. With Ronald Reagan, Patricia Neal, Richard Todd. 107 min.  
5:00 p.m.: The Clouded Yellow. 1950. Ralph Thomas. With Jean Simmons, Trevor Howard. 96 min.

**Sunday, December 28**

- 2:00 p.m.: The Perfect Woman. 1949. Bernard Knowles. With Patricia Roc, Stanley Holloway, Nigel Patrick. 89 min.  
5:00 p.m.: Yield to the Night (U.S.: Blonde Sinner). J. Lee Thompson. With Diana Dors, Yvonne Mitchell, Geoffrey Keen, Michael Craig. 99 min.

Monday, December 29

2:30 p.m.: The Brothers. 1948. David MacDonald. With Patricia Roc, Will Fyffe, Maxwell Reed. 98 min.

6:00 p.m.: The Upturned Glass. See Saturday, December 13, at 2:00.

Tuesday, December 30

2:30 p.m.: Corridor of Mirrors. See Saturday, December 13, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m.: Good Time Girl. 1948. David MacDonald. With Jean Kent, Flora Robson, Dennis Price. 93 min.

Friday, January 2

2:30 p.m.: The Small Back Room (U.S.: Hour of Glory). See Saturday, December 20, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m.: Noose (U.S.: The Silk Noose). See Saturday, December 20, at 2:00.

Saturday, January 3

2:00 p.m.: The Curse of Frankenstein. 1957. Terence Fisher. With Peter Cushing, Christopher Lee, Hazel Court. 82 min.

5:00 p.m.: Dracula (U.S.: Horror of Dracula). 1958. Terence Fisher. With Peter Cushing, Christopher Lee, Michael Gough. 82 min.

Sunday, January 4

2:00 p.m.: The Hound of the Baskervilles. 1959. Terence Fisher. With Peter Cushing, Andre Morell, Christopher Lee. (Warner Brothers). 87 min.

5:00 p.m.: The Gorgon. 1964. Terence Fisher. With Peter Cushing, Christopher Lee. 82 min.

Monday, January 5

2:30 p.m.: Yield to the Night (U.S.: Blonde Sinner). See Sunday, December 28, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m.: The Perfect Woman. See Sunday, December 28, at 2:00.

Tuesday, January 6

2:30 p.m.: The Clouded Yellow. See Saturday, December 27, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m.: The Hasty Heart. See Saturday, December 27, at 2:00.

Friday, January 9

2:30 p.m.: The Sleeping Tiger. See Sunday, December 21, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m.: The Intimate Stranger (U.S.: Finger of Guilt). See Sunday, December 21, at 2:00

Saturday, January 10

2:00 p.m.: Blind Date (U.S.: Chance Meeting). 1959. Joseph Losey. With Hardy Kruger, Stanley Baker, Micheline Presle. 93 min.

5:00 p.m.: The Criminal (U.S.: The Concrete Jungle). Joseph Losey. With Stanley Baker, Sam Wanamaker, Margit Saad, Jill Bennett. 97 min.

Sunday, January 11

2:00 p.m.: The Damned (U.S.: These Are the Damned). 1962. Joseph Losey. With Macdonald Carey, Shirley Ann Field, Viveca Lindfors, Alexander Knox, Oliver Reed. 87 min.

5:00 p.m.: Night of the Demon (U.S.: Curse of the Demon). 1957. Jacques Tourneur. With Dana Andrews, Peggy Cummins, Niall MacGinnis. 80 min.

Monday, January 12

2:30 p.m.: Dracula (U.S.: Horror of Dracula). See Saturday, January 3, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m.: The Curse of Frankenstein. See Saturday, January 3, at 2:00.

Tuesday, January 13

2:30 p.m.: The Gorgon. See Sunday, January 4, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m.: The Hound Of the Baskervilles. See Sunday, January 4, at 2:00.

Friday, January 16

2:30 p.m.: The Criminal (U.S.: The Concrete Jungle). See Saturday, January 10, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m.: Blind Date (U.S.: Chance Meeting). See Saturday, January 10, at 2:00.

Saturday, January 17

2:00 p.m.: The Day the Earth Caught Fire. 1961. Val Guest. With Janet Munro, Leo McKern. 98 min.

5:00 p.m.: The Innocents. 1961. Jack Clayton. With Deborah Kerr, Michael Redgrave, Peter Wyngarde. 97 min.

**Sunday, January 18**

2:00 p.m.: Quatermass and the Pit (U.S.: Five Million Years to Earth). 1967. Roy Ward Baker. With James Donald, Andrew Keir, Barbara Shelley. 96 min.

5:00 p.m.: Witchfinder General (U.S.: The Conqueror Worm). 1968. Michael Reeves. With Vincent Price, Ian Ogilvy, Hilary Dwyer. (Orion). 87 min.

**Tuesday, January 20**

2:30 p.m.: The Damned (U.S.: These Are the Damned). See Sunday, January 11, at 2:00.

6:00 p.m.: Night of the Demon (U.S.: Curse of the Demon). See Sunday, January 11, at 5:00.

**Friday, January 23**

2:30 p.m.: The Innocents. See Saturday, January 17, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m.: The Day the Earth Caught Fire. See Saturday, January 17, at 2:00.

**Saturday, January 24**

2:00 p.m.: Seance on a Wet Afternoon. 1964. Bryan Forbes. With Kim Stanley, Richard Attenborough, Mark Eden, Nanette Newman. 115 min.

5:00 p.m.: The League of Gentlemen. 1960. Basil Dearden. With Jack Hawkins, Nigel Patrick, Roger Livesey, Richard Attenborough, Bryan Forbes, Kieron Moore, Robert Coote, Terence Alexander. 116 min.

**Sunday, January 25**

2:00 p.m.: The Ipcress File. 1965. Sidney J. Furie. With Michael Caine, Nigel Green, Gordon Jackson. 109 min.

5:00 p.m.: The Deadly Affair. 1966. Sidney Lumet. With Simone Signoret, Maximilian Schell, Harriet Andersson, James Mason, Harry Andrews. 107 min.

**Monday, January 26**

2:30 p.m.: Witchfinder General (U.S.: The Conqueror Worm). See Sunday, January 18, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m.: Quatermass and the Pit (U.S.: Five Million Years to Earth). See Sunday, January 18, at 2:00.

**Tuesday, January 27**

2:30 p.m.: Seance on a Wet Afternoon. See Saturday, January 24, at 2:00.

6:00 p.m.: The Deadly Affair. See Sunday, January 25, at 5:00.

**Friday, January 30**

2:30 p.m.: The Ipcress File. See Sunday, January 25, at 2:00.

6:00 p.m.: Gone to Earth (U.S.: The Wild Heart). 1950. Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger. With Jennifer Jones, David Farrar, Cyril Cusack. 110 min.

**Saturday, January 31**

2:00 p.m.: Gone to Earth (U.S.: The Wild Heart). See Friday, January 30, at 6:00.

5:00 p.m.: Blow-Up. 1966. Michelangelo Antonioni. With David Hemmings, Vanessa Redgrave, Sarah Miles. 110 min.

**Sunday, February 1**

2:00 p.m.: Charlie Bubbles. 1967. Albert Finney. With Albert Finney, Colin Blakeley, Billie Whitelaw, Liza Minnelli. 89 min.

5:00 p.m.: Sunday Bloody Sunday. 1971. John Schlesinger. With Glenda Jackson, Peter Finch, Murray Head. 100 min.

**Monday, February 2**

2:30 p.m.: Blow-Up. See Saturday, January 31, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m.: Charlie Bubbles. See Sunday, February 1, at 2:00.

**Tuesday, February 3**

2:30 p.m.: Sunday Bloody Sunday. See Sunday, February 1, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m.: Frenzy. 1972. Alfred Hitchcock. With Jon Finch, Barry Foster, Barbara Leigh-Hunt, Anna Massey. 116 min.

**Friday, February 6**

2:30 p.m.: Walkabout. 1970. Nicolas Roeg. With Jenny Agutter, Lucien John, David Gumpilil. 95 min.

6:00 p.m.: Frenzy. See Tuesday, February 3, at 6:00.



**Saturday, February 7**

2:00 p.m.: Walkabout. See Friday, February 6, at 2:30.

5:00 p.m.: Frenzy. See Tuesday, February 3, at 6:00.

**Sunday, February 8**

2:00 p.m.: Radio On. 1979. Chris Petit. With David Beames, Lisa Kreuzer. 101 min.

5:00 p.m.: Quadrophenia. 1979. Franc Roddam. With Phil Daniels, Mark Wingett, Sting.  
120 min.

**Monday, February 9**

2:30 p.m.: Quadrophenia. See Sunday, February 8, at 5:00.

6:00 p.m.: Radio On. See Sunday, February 8, at 2:00.

**Tuesday, February 10**

2:30 p.m.: The Draughtsman's Contract. 1982. Peter Greenaway. With Anthony Higgins, Janet Suzman. 108 min.

6:00 p.m.: Odd Man Out. See Friday, December 12, at 6:00.

**Thursday, February 12**

2:30 p.m.: Good Time Girl. See Tuesday, December 30, at 6:00.

6:00 p.m.: The Brothers. See Monday, December 29, at 2:30.