

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
September 1987

PRODUCER EDWARD R. PRESSMAN TO BE HONORED BY RETROSPECTIVE AT MoMA
JANUARY 8-24, 1988

Brian De Palma, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, and Terence Malick are among the directors represented in a retrospective of eleven films at The Museum of Modern Art, in honor of Producer Edward R. Pressman's unique contribution to the film industry. The exhibition begins on Friday, January 8, 1988, when Mr. Pressman will introduce Mr. Malick's Badlands (1973) at 6:00 p.m. Mr. De Palma's Sisters (1973) will be screened the same day at 2:30 p.m.

EDWARD R. PRESSMAN, PRODUCER is comprised of films made over a period of eighteen years. Mr. Pressman recently donated nine films to the Museum's Archive. Two works produced by Mr. Pressman and directed by Paul Williams for United Artists, Out of It (1969), starring Jon Voight in his film debut, and The Revolutionary, with Mr. Voight and Robert Duvall, had been previously donated to the Archive. They are included in the exhibition, as is another collaboration between Mr. Pressman and Mr. Williams, the short film Girl (1965), based on the Beatles' song.

The eight other films in the series demonstrate the diversity of Mr. Pressman's productions and the array of talent for which he has provided exposure. Badlands, Mr. Malick's first feature and a haunting depiction of fifties America, introduced Sissy Spacek and brought national attention to Martin Sheen. Sisters, an homage to Alfred Hitchcock, with the then-unknown Margot Kidder, and the cult horror musical Phantom of the Paradise (1974) gave

- more -

Director De Palma a strong career boost. The elegantly crafted Despair (1978), from a screenplay by Tom Stoppard, was Mr. Fassbinder's only English-language feature. The postmodern True Stories (1986) provided David Byrne of the Talking Heads with his first directorial opportunity and a leading role.

The three more mainstream features in the series also demonstrate the variety of Mr. Pressman's productions. John Byrum's Heartbeat (1980), starring Nick Nolte, Sissy Spacek, and John Heard, is the loosely biographical tale of Jack Kerouac and Neal and Carolyn Cassady. The 1982 Conan the Barbarian, directed by John Milius from a screenplay by Mr. Milius and Oliver Stone, is based on Robert Howard's mythic hero and established the sword-and-sorcery genre. Das Boot (1982), a West German film directed by Wolfgang Petersen and nominated for five Academy Awards, dynamically tells the story of the crew of a wartime German submarine.

Other works produced by Mr. Pressman during his career but not part of the Museum's exhibition include Sylvester Stallone's directorial debut Paradise Alley (1978), with Mr. Stallone; Joan Tewkesbury's Old Boyfriends (1978), based on a screenplay by Paul Schrader, starring John Belushi, Talia Shire, and Keith Carradine; Oliver Stone's first feature, The Hand (1981), with Michael Caine; and Fred Schepisi's Plenty (1985), from a screenplay by David Hare adapted from his own play, starring Meryl Streep, Charles Dance, and Sting.

Recent releases produced by Mr. Pressman include Good Morning, Babylon (1987), directed by Paolo and Vittorio Taviani, about Italian immigrants who worked with D. W. Griffith; and Gary Goddard's Masters of the Universe (1987), with Dolph Lundgren and Frank Langella. His other productions scheduled for release this year include Alex Cox's Walker, with Ed Harris and Marlee Matlin; and Oliver Stone's Wall Street, starring Michael Douglas, Charlie Sheen, and

Daryl Hannah. Among Mr. Pressman's other current projects are Hugh Hudson's Reversal of Fortune, adapted from Allan Dershowitz's book based on Claus von Bulow's case and appeal; Judge Dredd, based on a twenty-first century law enforcer and adapted from a British comic strip; David Hare's new film, Paris by Night; and Talk Radio, based on Eric Bogosian's play.

EDWARD R. PRESSMAN, PRODUCER continues through January 24 in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2. The exhibition has been coordinated by Adrienne Mancina, curator in the Museum's Department of Film.

No. 90

For further press information and photographic materials, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9752; or Teri Kane, Clein + Feldman Inc., 212/247-4100.