

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
June 1989

SUMMER FILM PROGRAMS AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

FUSION

June 9 - 15, 1989

Jazz, rock, classical, and experimental music are some of the musical forms that composers and musicians have synthesized with motion pictures. FUSION is a program of six feature and nine short films which illustrate the various film genres in which these artists have worked. The works in the program have been drawn from the Museum's archive and circulating film collections.

Among the films to be presented are Mark Sandrich's Top Hat (1935), with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers and music and lyrics by Irving Berlin; Otto Preminger's Anatomy of a Murder (1959), a Hollywood drama with an improvised score by Duke Ellington; and D.A. Pennebaker's Monterey Pop (1968) and Martin Scorsese's The Last Waltz (1978), rock documentaries of the sixties and seventies. Also included are Ralph Steiner and Willard Van Dyke's The City (1939) and Pare Lorentz's The River (1937), social documentary films of the thirties with classic scores by Aaron Copland and Virgil Thomson, respectively. A selection of animated and experimental films includes Faith Hubley's Sky Dance (1980), with music by Elizabeth Swados, and Shirley Clarke's Bridges-Go-Round (1958), with both electronic and jazz scores. Organized by Jon Gartenberg, assistant curator, Department of Film.

ALEXANDER KLUGE: SHORT FILMS, 1960-1977

June 16 - 17, 1989

The work of filmmaker, teacher, and theoretician Alexander Kluge greatly influenced the rebirth of German cinema in the sixties. This program of seven of Kluge's short films, made between 1960 and 1977, includes The Eternity of Yesterday, Teachers Through Change, Protocol of a Revolution, and Frau Blackburn. Organized by Laurence Kardish, curator, Department of Film.

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STANISLAVSKI, ACTORS AND AMERICAN FILM

June 16 - 27, 1989

In 1897 Konstantin Stanislavski (1863-1938) cofounded the Moscow Art Theater, where he developed a revolutionary approach to acting through realism. A modified version of the Russian master's teachings--which emphasizes the creation of authentic characters and situations on screen--has become the dominant acting technique in the United States. Stanislavski's legacy is illustrated by this series of ten American films featuring such actors as Carroll Baker, Marlon Brando, Ellen Burstyn, Al Pacino, and Shelley Winters, and such directors as Peter Bogdanovich, Elia Kazan, and Martin Ritt.

Films from the fifties and sixties include George Stevens's A Place in the Sun (1951), with Montgomery Clift and Elizabeth Taylor, Kazan's East of Eden (1955), with James Dean and Julie Harris, and Ritt's Hud (1963), with Paul Newman and Patricia O'Neal. Also featured are Martin Scorsese's Mean Streets (1973), with Robert De Niro, and Bogdanovich's Saint Jack (1979), with Ben Gazzara. Organized by Anne Morra, curatorial assistant, Department of Film.

JOHN CASSAVETES: FROM THE ARCHIVE

June 30 - July 13, 1989

The singular accomplishments of John Cassavetes (1929-88), one of America's leading independent filmmakers, are celebrated with a program of ten films drawn from the Museum's collection. A Woman Under The Influence (1974), Faces (1968), and The Killing of a Chinese Bookie (1976) were donated by the filmmaker in 1980 at the time of the Museum's retrospective JOHN CASSAVETES, FILMMAKER AND ACTOR. Other Cassavetes titles, including Opening Night (1978), Gloria (1980), Love Streams (1984), and Big Trouble (1985), have since been added to the collection. Organized by Laurence Kardish, curator, Department of Film.

RECENT AQUISITIONS

July 14 - August 3, 1989

Twenty-seven features and shorts comprise a program of films selected from over 300 titles acquired by the Museum over the past year. Made between 1906 and 1987, the films include previously "lost" films by Emile Cohl, D.W. Griffith, and Georges Méliès, as well as John Huston's last film, The Dead (1987). Three works by director Samuel Fuller, The Steel Helmet (1961), The Baron of Arizona (1950), and I Shot Jesse James (1949), have been acquired through the Museum's ongoing Film Preservation Fund. Other works included in the series are Lindsay Anderson's The Whales of August (1987), Clint Eastwood's Play Misty For Me (1971), Jean-Luc Godard's Une Femme est une femme (1961), and Jean Renoir's French Can Can (1955). Organized by Eileen Bowser, curator, Department of Film.

HOLLYWOOD IN 1939

August 4 - September 12, 1989

Generally regarded as the height of the Hollywood studio system, the year 1939 produced an unparalleled variety of enduring films. This series showcases thirty-five of the most memorable films released that year by major studios and independent producers. In addition to a sampling of the acknowledged classics of the time, the show emphasizes the more modest genre films and program pictures which sustained the industry and entertained an avid public worldwide. Directors represented include John Ford, Ernst Lubitsch, Rouben Mamoulian, Leo McCarey, and William Wyler.

In 1939, a decade after the entrenchment of talkies and with the Depression on the wane, the film industry reached a new level of technological, artistic, and economic confidence. The arrival of war in Europe only reinforced this sense of relative well-being, which Hollywood reflected indirectly in a series of films celebrating the American past. Among the films in HOLLYWOOD IN 1939 are John Ford's Stagecoach, with John Wayne and Claire Trevor; Raoul Walsh's The Roaring Twenties, with James Cagney and Humphrey Bogart; Harold S. Bucquet's Calling Dr. Kildare, with Lionel Barrymore and Lana Turner; and Rowland V. Lee's Son of Frankenstein, with Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi. Organized by Stephen Harvey, associate curator, Department of Film.

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For further information or film stills, contact Sarah Eaton, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.