

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION **JEANNE MOREAU**

DATES February 25 - March 18, 1994

ORGANIZATION Initiated by the late Stephen Harvey, Associate Curator, and organized by Laurence Kardish, Curator, and Joshua Siegel, Curatorial Assistant, Department of Film and Video.

CONTENT Few performing artists both epitomize and transcend their respective eras by the originality of their work, and the French actress Jeanne Moreau (b. 1928) is such an artist. This rare retrospective at the Museum, devoted to the work of a film actor, traces Moreau's steady rise through the rather conventional French cinema of the 1950s to international renown as muse and icon of the burgeoning New Wave movement. Alternately playful, seductive, or somber, Moreau brought something truly modern to the screen -- a compelling but ultimately elusive persona.

The twenty-five films in the retrospective span Moreau's remarkable forty-five year career. After perfecting her craft as a principle member of the *Comédie Française* and the *Théâtre National Populaire*, Moreau appeared in such films as Louis Malle's *Elevator to the Gallows* (1957) and *The Lovers* (1958) and Jacques Demy's *The Bay of Angels* (1962). Over the decades to come, she welcomed new creative challenges from bold French directors, such as Marguerite Duras (*Nathalie Granger*, 1972), Bertrand Blier (*Going Places*, 1973), and André Téchiné (*French Provincial*, 1975), as well as such English-speaking directors as Tony Richardson (*The Sailor from Gibraltar*, 1965) and Orson Welles (*Chimes at Midnight*, 1964).

Jeanne Moreau also made films with such directors as Luis Buñuel, Jean Renoir, and Michelangelo Antonioni. Most recently, she has worked with the youngest generation of French directors and just completed a role in Guy Jacques's *Je m'appelle Victor* (1993). As a filmmaker, Moreau directed the feature-length films *Lumière* (1975) and *L'Adolescente* (1976), starring Simone Signoret, the documentary *Lillian Gish* (1983), and will begin production on a new film in Paris in March 1994.

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For further information or film stills, contact Barbara Marshall, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752. No. 69