2ND - Revised

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

No. 61
FOR RELEASE:
Wednesday, May 18, 1966

PRESS PREVIEW:
Tuesday, May 17, 1966
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

THE CAREER OF AN ACTRESS: SOPHIA LOREN, the first photographic exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art devoted to an individual performer, will be on view from May 18 through September 5. Selected by Willard Van Dyke, Director of the Museum's Department of Film, the exhibition of film stills, production stills and personal photographs traces Miss Loren's career from her first films made in Italy in 1950 through subsequent roles in German, French, Italian and American pictures.

In the more than 30 films represented in the show, Miss Loren is seen in roles ranging from a young girl to an 85-year old woman, a prostitute, a nun, the mother of a teenager, and a princess, in high comedy and in tragic portrayals.

One section of the exhibition is devoted to stills and photographs of Miss Loren working with Vittorio de Sica who directed her in GOLD OF NAPLES (1957); TWO WOMEN, for which she won an Oscar as the best actress of 1960; BOCCACCIO '70 (1962); THE CONDEMNED OF ALTONA (1963); YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW (1963); and MARRIAGE ITALIAN STYLE (1964). Another section of photographs from her current film LADY L (1966), shows her as an 80-year old noblewoman. Stills are also shown from THE NUN OF MONZA, a film which was never completed by Miss Loren because of her displeasure with the role in which she was cast as a child-killer; AIDA (1954), in which she acts in the title role to the play-back voice of Renata Tebaldi; WOMAN OF THE RIVER (1955), her first role in a picture produced by Carlo Ponti; LEGEND OF THE LOST (1956), one of her early Hollywood pictures made with John Wayne as her leading man; DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS (1957); and EL CID (1961).

In the exhibition wall label, Willard Van Dyke says: "In mid-career, Sophia Loren is clearly one of the most accomplished performers in motion pictures today. Her vibrant personality never obscures the variety of characterizations she has brought to her many roles. Responsive to her directors, indefatigable in her search for the subtlest nuances of the script, she is first an actress, then a star."

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The exhibition, originally assembled by Rudolph Joseph, Director of the Film Department of the Stadtmuseum in Munich, Germany, continues The Museum of Modern Art's collaboration with foreign film libraries and archives. Mr. Van Dyke has made his selection for the New York show largely from the more than 250 photographs exhibited in Munich in 1965, which were obtained by Mr. Joseph from Miss Loren, her husband Carlo Ponti, and various photo archives. Mr. Van Dyke has also chosen additional photographs by Peter Basch, and from Look magazine, Pix, and The Museum of Modern Art's own stills collection.

The exhibition has been installed by Kathleen Haven, Graphics Coordinator at the Museum. Among the photographers represented are Peter Basch, Alfred Eisenstaedt and Pierluigi.

Miss Loren and Mr. Ponti will arrive in New York on May 24. On May 25, Miss Loren will be the guest of honor at a private dinner party for invited guests given by the Trustees of the Museum and the Department of Film.

The Museum gratefully acknowledges the cooperation of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in helping to make the exhibition possible.

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Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Linda Gordon, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. CIrcle 5-8900.

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