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COMMITTEE ON FINE ARTS PRODUCTIONS



Pola Negri

Theda Bara



Friday, July 10, 1964

FORBIDDEN PARADISE

U.S.A. (1924)

Directed by Ernst Lubitsch. With Pola Negri, Rod La Roque and Adolphe Menjou.

Pola Negri Vamps it up as Catherine the Great in Ernst Lubitsch's delightful *Forbidden Paradise*. Not only is it considered to be one of Lubitsch's finest films, but it shows Pola at the height of her fame in a characterization of subtlety and charm. This most wonderful actress is still going strong (according to a recent newspaper interview, she thinks the twist is swell), and *Forbidden Paradise* should serve to show today's audiences what Vamping really was!

On the same program, a rare opportunity to see Theda Bara at work. Although she is usually remembered as the first major Vamp, the film work of Theda Bara has passed into legend, with the exception of her first and last films. Unbelievable as it seems, only these two remnants of a fabulous career survive today to show us her considerable art. *The Unchastened Woman* was her farewell to the screen, but she is back at her old tricks in a plot of complexity only a true Vamp could untangle!

And as a special bonus, an excerpt from the first Vamp film of them all, *The Vampire* (1913) with the "Dance of the Vampires" inspired by the paintings of Burne-Jones and the poem of Rudyard Kipling!

This program is introduced by Mr. James Card, curator of motion pictures, George Eastman House, Rochester, New York.