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Rubens

Interfilm & Discina Documentary 45 mins.

AUDIENCE SLANT: (Family) The work itself of the 16th century Flemish painter is featured in an excellent documentary that will be appreciated by high brows and, so dramatically is it done, by many others with no prior interest in Rubens.

BOX-OFFICE SLANT: This sort of thing is so rare that even art theatres will have to put their patrons on special notice. The film fully justifies it and there are many good and easy exploitation possibilities. Should be paired with a carefully chosen feature.

Credits: Produced in Belgium. A Paul Haessaerts and Henri Storck Film. Scenario and commentary, Haessaerts. Directed by Storck and Haessaerts. Pictures, Robert Gudin, Pierre Gudin and Jacques Brunet. Special shots and animated designs, D. and H. Serade. Assistant directors, Luc Zangrie, Jean Van Elsen. Music, Raymond Chevreuille. Narrator, Stephane Cordier.

Comment: A subject on art is so rare that even art theatres must put their patrons on special notice if they would bring out the potential audience. This film is a rarity within the rare category and certainly justifies extra showmanship. Exploitation possibilities are many, easy and obvious. The excellence of the film, attested to by a gold medal from the 1948 Biennial Venice Film Festival as the most artistic motion picture of the year, stems from the fact that it is a commentary on the painting of Pierre-Paul Rubens and not a shallow biography of the man. The presentation—narration in English, explanatory animated effects and chamber orchestra accompaniment—is made with obvious feeling for the work and is so dramatic that many with no prior interest in Rubens will

join the "high brows" in appreciation of it. The film is black and white but so rich is the tapestry of work drawn from many European museums and collections that is perhaps a blessing. "Rubens" should be paired with a carefully chosen feature. Its recent American premiere in New York was with the French picture, "Carnival in Flanders," set in the time and the place of the great painter. It will be released in 16-mm. as well as 35-mm. by Interfilm Corp. and Discina International Films Corp.

—*Showmen's Trade Review*