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University Art Museum Pacific Film Archive

University of California at Berkeley
2625 Durant Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94720

Press Release

Press contact:
Shelley Diekman
(510) 642-0365

PRESS SCREENING INVITATION

FILM: **Blackmail**, (UK, 1929), directed by Alfred Hitchcock; screened in its rarely shown (and critically acclaimed) silent version, with live musical accompaniment on the Mighty Wurlitzer by Dennis James. Black and white, 78 minutes.

TIME: 1 pm, Thursday, May 27

PLACE: The Castro Theatre, Castro and Market, San Francisco

PUBLIC SCREENING DATE: **Blackmail** will be screened at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, June 2 at the Castro Theatre in San Francisco. Also playing that evening, at 9:10 pm, is Hitchcock's **Murder!** (UK, 1930). The Castro program is the first of 18 screenings, to be shown at Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley from Saturday, June 5 through Wednesday, June 30, in the series, "**Early Hitchcock**", a series of rare and restored films from the British Film Institute Champagne Piper-Heidsieck Classic Film Collection.

Dear Friend:

Pacific Film Archive and The Castro Theatre invite you and a guest to a press preview screening of an excellent archival print of **Blackmail**, shown in its rarely screened silent version, with live accompaniment by Dennis James on the Castro's Wurlitzer organ.

Made in the earliest days of Britain's sound era, in both silent and sound versions, **Blackmail** was based on a London play that starred Talullah Bankhead; the playwright, Charles Bennett, worked with Hitchcock on the film script, as well as on such subsequent Hitchcock classics as **The Thirty-Nine Steps** and **Foreign Correspondent**. The plot of **Blackmail** centers on a Scotland Yard detective (Richard Longden) and his girlfriend (Anny Onda); she becomes the target of a blackmail. Cyril Ritchard plays against type as a lecherous artist. The film is notable for Hitchcock's marvelous style -- in which shifting subjective viewpoints create sympathy for criminals, victims, and the police. **Blackmail** also offers the first of Hitchcock's thrilling climactic chase scenes; in this film, a pursuit on the rooftop of the British Museum. Although the silent version of **Blackmail** was very rarely seen until recently, it is thought by many critics to be superior to the sound version.

Blackmail inaugurates PFA's screenings of Hitchcock films made in Britain from 1929 through 1943, all shown in excellent 35mm prints from the British Film Institute Champagne Piper-Heidsieck Classic Film Collection. The Archive screenings will be presented in Berkeley from June 5 through 30. A press release and schedule is enclosed. I hope you will be able to attend the screening.

Sincerely,


Shelley Diekman

British Film Insitute Presents
The Champagne Piper Heidsieck Classic Film Collection

Early Hitchcock

June 2 at the Castro Theatre in San Francisco
June 5, 6, 12, 13, 18, 27, and 30 at Pacific Film Archive

Schedule of Dates, Times, and Titles (with country and year of production)

Wednesday, June 2 -

at the Castro Theatre in San Francisco

7:30 pm: **Blackmail** (UK, 1929) -
presented with live musical
accompaniment by Dennis James
on the Mighty Wurlitzer
9:10 pm: **Murder!** (UK, 1930)

Saturday, June 5

6:00 pm: **Juno and the Paycock** (UK,
1930)
8:00 pm: **Blackmail** (UK, 1929) -- with
piano accompaniment by Jon
Mirsalis
9:35 pm: **Mary** (UK/Germany, 1930)

Sunday, June 6

7:00 pm: **Murder!** (UK, 1930)
8:50 pm: **Elstree Calling** (UK, 1930),
directed by Adrian Brunel,
finished by Hitchcock

Saturday, June 12

6:00 pm: **The Skin Game** (UK, 1931)
7:35 pm: **Number Seventeen** (UK, 1932)
9:00 pm: **Rich and Strange** (UK, 1932)

Sunday, June 13

7:30 pm **and**
9:10 pm: **The Thirty-Nine Steps** (UK,
1935)

Friday, June 18

7:30 pm: **Sabotage** (UK, 1936)
9:05 pm: **The Secret Agent** (UK, 1936)

Sunday, June 27

6:00 pm **and**
9:30 pm: **The Lady Vanishes** (UK, 1938)
7:50 pm: **Young and Innocent** (UK, 1937)

Wednesday, June 30

7:30 pm: **Jamaica Inn** (UK, 1939),
followed by an intermission,
then, **Bon Voyage** and
Adventure Malgache

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Admission to the June 2 evening at the Castro
Theatre is \$8. All other programs will be shown
at Pacific Film Archive, 2625 Durant Avenue,
Berkeley, for an admission of \$5.50 for one
program, and \$7 for double bills.

For additional information, please phone 642-
1412.

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British Film Institute Presents The Champagne Piper-Heidsieck Classic Film Collection

Early Hitchcock

June 2 at the Castro Theatre in San Francisco
June 5, 6, 12, 13, 18, 27, and 30 at Pacific Film Archive

Pacific Film Archive is very pleased to screen 20 programs of early films by Alfred Hitchcock, from the British Film Institute Champagne Piper-Heidsieck Classic Film Collection. The series will screen high-quality 35mm prints, in many cases newly struck or restored from archival materials. Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980) has been acclaimed as one of world cinema's great directors. This series gives viewers the delightful opportunity to discover the films he made in Britain from 1929 to 1944, the era when he earned his reputation as a highly accomplished filmmaker and the "master of suspense".

"Early Hitchcock: The British Film Institute Champagne Piper-Heidsieck Classic Film Collection" begins June 2 with a special program at the Castro Theatre in San Francisco. Hitchcock's atmospheric 1929 film **Blackmail** will be shown in its rarely screened silent version, with live musical accompaniment on the Wurlitzer pipe organ by Dennis James. Also to be shown that evening is **Murder!**, a 1930 whodunit set in the theatre world.

The series then continues at Pacific Film Archive, 2625 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, from June 5 through 30. On Saturday, June 5, PFA screens three films: **Juno and the Paycock**, adapted from Sean O'Casey's play, and enacted by a cast from Dublin's Abbey Theatre; **Blackmail**; and **Mary**, the German version of **Murder!**. **Murder!** will have a repeat screening on Sunday, June 6, followed by **Elstree Calling**, a 1930 musical revue film directed by Adrian Brunel. Hitchcock was the director who completed the film, adding a linking story about a man trying to tune in his home-made television to the broadcast of the stage acts.

On Saturday, June 12, PFA will show **The Skin Game**, adapted from a Galsworthy play, as well as **Number Seventeen**, an exciting spoof of an Old Dark House whodunit. Also to be screened that evening is **Rich and Strange**, one of Hitchcock's own favorite films, which tells of bored couple who embark on a disaster-filled ocean cruise.

One of Hitchcock's most enjoyable British films, **The Thirty-Nine Steps**, will be shown on

Sunday, June 13. As in such later films as **NORTH BY NORTHWEST** and **SABOTEUR**, an innocent hero is being chased; Hitchcock heightens the suspense with charming additions of humor and romance.

Sabotage, to be shown June 18, is a taut thriller based on Joseph Conrad's novel *The Secret Agent*. Oscar Homolka portrays an anarchist whose cover is running a fleapit movie house. Hitchcock recreates the details and flavors of London's poorer neighborhoods, and creates enormous suspense in a scene of a young who unwittingly carries a bomb on a crosstown bus ride. Hitchcock's **The Secret Agent**, based on Somerset Maugham stories about the writer's experiences as a WWI spy, stars John Gielgud, Madeleine Carroll, and Peter Lorre as agents on assignment in Switzerland.

PFA will screen **The Lady Vanishes** on Sunday, June 27, along with **Young and Innocent**, a sophisticated chase film drawn from a Josephine Tey novel. **The Lady Vanishes** is one of the most popular and entertaining Hitchcock's 1930s films, combining breezy wit with sinister villains in a plot that is both charming and suspenseful. **The Lady Vanishes** received the 1938 Best Director Award from the New York Critics, and led Hitchcock to Hollywood to work for David O. Selznick.

Hitchcock made one more feature film in England, **Jamaica Inn**, in 1939. Charles Laughton produced and starred, along with Maureen O'Hara, in a tale of smuggling on the Cornish coast. **Jamaica Inn** was based (as would be **REBECCA**, Hitchcock's first U.S. film) on a Daphne du Maurier novel. It will be shown on Wednesday, June 30, along with two very rare films made by Hitchcock in Britain in 1944. **Bon Voyage** and **Adventure Malgache** are tales of intrigue and resistance under Nazi Occupation; the films were intended to spur the war effort, and star the Molière Players, a troupe of French actors in exile in London.

General admission to the screenings at Pacific Film Archive is \$5.50 for one program, and \$7 for double bills. Admission to the June 2 screening of **Blackmail** and **Murder!** at the Castro Theatre is \$8. For additional program or ticket information, please telephone 642-1412.

"**Early Hitchcock**" is touring program presented by the British Film Institute Piper-Heidsieck Classic Film Collection. This is an international initiative whose aim is to offer classic films in new and restored prints so that audiences can view them in beautiful condition, on the big screen. "**Early Hitchcock**" is the first group of films from this collection to tour the United States. The Classic Film Collection, coordinated by the British Film Institute in London, and funded by Champagne Piper-Heidsieck, will number some 200 prints by 1995.

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