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Please....For Release, Monday, June 20th

ORIGINAL MOVIE VERSION OF "THE THREE PENNY OPERA" RESTORED FOR SHOWING HERE

The original Mack, the Knife, along with the first Jenny, Polly, Peachum, Tiger Brown, and the Street Singer, will be seen and heard on the screens of the United States beginning next month, thanks to the successful completion of a ten-year quest by Thomas J. Brandon, importer, distributor and cinema addict. According to an announcement today, Americans will be able to see for the first time a complete version of THE THREE PENNY OPERA ("Die Dreigroschenoper") which was based on the play by Bert Brecht with music by Kurt Weill and directed by G.W. Pabst in Germany in 1931 on the eve of Hitler's seizure of power.

The picture stars Lotte Lenya (Jenny), Rudolph Forster (Mackie Messer--the original Mack the Knife), Carola Neher (Polly), Ernst Busch (Street Singer), Fritz Rasp (Peachum), and Reinhold Schüenzel (Tiger Brown) and includes a large cast of beggars, ladies of the evening, their gentlemen, and the police.

The screenplay was freely adapted by Leo Lania, Ladislav Vajda, and Bela Belaz, and the settings were designed by Andrei Adnreiev. Fritz Wagner was responsible for the photography and the musical direction was under Theodore Mackeben.

The 1960 release, according to Brandon, will be as complete as the original negative destroyed by the Third Reich, and the only complete version with a good sound track that exists anywhere in the world. The decade-old quest led to the reconstruction of the picture from usable sections and scenes. A whole sound track was equalized and re-recorded because of the astonishing fact, learned in travels to nine countries in 1950 to 1956, that no satisfactory complete print exists anywhere. With the help of the Film Library of the Museum of Modern Art access to decisive sections was secured in 1959, and the work of the last four years was completed.

The re-recording was handled by James Townsend with musical supervision by Henry Schuman. A complete new set of English titles has been prepared by Herman G. Weinberg.

Briefly seen here in 1931 in a cut version without complete English titles, the picture, however, was widely seen elsewhere outside of Germany before World War I. It was named "one of the world's ten best films" by the 1948 Brussels World Poll of Critics. The present version includes the special music written by Kurt Weill to be sung in the film production, music that was additional to the original theatre version.