

# National Gallery of Art

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 29, 1996

Press contact: Ann Greer  
(202) 842-6353  
Film contact: Peggy Parsons  
(202) 842-6272

**SPRING IN BUDAPEST: HUNGARIAN FILM IN RETROSPECT**  
**FILM SERIES OPENS AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART ON MAY 4;**  
**FEATURES TWO AMERICAN PREMIERES**

Washington, D.C. -- A film series focusing on one of the oldest and richest film cultures in Eastern Europe opens at the National Gallery of Art on Saturday, May 4 at 2:30 p.m., when Hungarian director Géza Bereményi will introduce a screening of István Szabó's Mephisto, one of the greatest Hungarian films of the last two decades.

The series continues through June 15; a complete schedule follows, and recorded information is available to the public by calling (202) 842-6799.

On May 12 at 6:00 p.m., an American premiere will be screened, the only surviving Hungarian film by Mihály Kertész, who later became the Hollywood director Michael Curtiz of Casablanca and Mildred Pierce fame. This film, My Brother is Coming (1919), and two others in the series will be translated live via headsets.

Bereményi, a member of the younger generation of Hungarian filmmakers, will return on Sunday, May 5 at 6:00 p.m. to

-more-

hungarian films...page 2

introduce the American premiere of Magic Hunter, a lyrical work based on Carl Maria von Weber's opera Der Freischütz.

The series, organized with the cooperation of the Embassy of Hungary, Hunnia Filmstudió, Sándor Simó, Magyar Filmunió, Malév, and Kati Vajda, constitutes a concise history of the Hungarian cinema. Films by Hungary's two most influential directors, István Szabó and Miklós Jancsó, are included, as are examples of every important genre -- melodrama, film d'art, and historical allegory, as well as films made during the neo-realist period, the new wave of the 1960s, and the period of Communist domination of the industry. From May 1 through 4, four short experimental works from the 1920s by abstract artist László Moholy-Nagy (1895-1946) are included as an illustration of the avant-garde tradition in Hungary.

Magda Zalan, Hungarian-born journalist and author, selected the films in the series with assistance from filmmaker Sándor Simó, director of Hunnia Filmstudió in Budapest. Hungarian cinema from its beginnings one hundred years ago manifested an interest in representing the country's history, as well as its literature, art, and theatre -- a unique universe that survived the strictures of the Stalinist era.

#### SCHEDULE

May 1-4 at 12:30 p.m.

Short films by László Moholy-Nagy, 1926-1932, 35 minutes.

-more-

hungarian films...page 3

May 4 at 2:30 p.m.

**Mephisto**

Directed by István Szabo, German with English subtitles, 1981, 144 minutes. Director Géza Bereményi will introduce the program.

May 5 at 6:00 p.m.

**Magic Hunter (Büvös vadász)**

Directed by Ildikó Enyedi, 1994, 106 minutes. Premiere.

Director Géza Bereményi will introduce the program.

May 11 at 2:30 p.m.

**The Village Rascal (Falu rossza)**

Directed by Miklós Pásztor, 1916, silent with English intertitles, 91 minutes.

Also

**The Golden Man (Az aranyember)**

Directed by Sándor Korda (later Alexander Korda), 1918, German intertitles translated live, 79 minutes.

May 12 at 6:00 p.m.

**My Brother is Coming (Jön az öcsém)**

Directed by Mihály Kertész, 1919, Hungarian intertitles translated live, 9 minutes.

Also

**Hyppolit the Valet (Hyppolit, a lakáj)**

Directed by István Székely, 1931, Hungarian sound track with simultaneous translation, 83 minutes.

Also

**Deadly Spring (Halálos tavasz)**

Directed by László Kalmár, 1939, Hungarian sound track with simultaneous translation, 108 minutes.

May 18 at 2:30 p.m.

**People in the Alps (People of the Mountains/Emberek a havason)**

Directed by István Szöts (called the Hungarian Dovzhenko), 1942, 92 minutes.

Also

**Somewhere in Europe (Valahol Európában)**

Directed by Géza Radványi, 1947, 106 minutes.

May 19 at 6:00 p.m.

**Professor Hannibal (Hannibál tanár úr)**

Directed by Zoltán Fábri, 1956, 95 minutes.

May 25 at 2:30 p.m.

**A Sunday Romance (Bakaruhában)**

Directed by Imre Fehér, 1957, 94 minutes.

Also

**The Corporal and the Others (A tizedes meg a többiek)**

Directed by Márton Keleti, 1966, 105 minutes.

hungarian films...page 4

May 26 at 6:00 p.m.

**The Round-Up (The Hopeless Ones/Szegenylegenyek)**

Directed by Miklós Jancsó, 1966, 94 minutes.

Also

**Love (Szerelem)**

Directed by Károly Makk, 1971, 92 minutes.

June 2 at 6:00 p.m.

**The Witness (A Tanu)**

Directed by Péter Bácsó. 1968, color, 108 minutes.

June 8 at 3:00 p.m.

**My Father's Happy Years (Apám Néhány Boldog Éve)**

Directed by Sándor Simó, 1977, 98 minutes.

June 9 at 6:00 p.m.

**Sindbad (Szindbád)**

Directed by Zoltán Huszárik, 1972, 98 minutes.

Also

**Deliver Us From Evil (Szabadíts Meg A Gonosztól)**

Directed by Pál Sándor, 1978, 92 minutes.

June 15 at 12:30 p.m.

**Eldorádó (The Midas Touch)** Directed by Bereményi, 1988,

110 minutes.

# # #