

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

FOURTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 511

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS SCREENING

Tuesday, January 26, 1982

10:30 a.m.

East Building Auditorium

RODIN FILM PREMIERES AT NATIONAL GALLERY

WASHINGTON, D. C. January 20, 1982. The premiere of a film, Rodin: The Gates of Hell, will take place at a private reception in the National Gallery of Art's East Building the evening of Thursday, January 28. This film will be shown to the public at no charge on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 29 through 31, in the East Building auditorium.

The 53-minute film presents the development of the conception for The Gates of Hell, a monumental work of master sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840-1917), and its first casting in bronze by the lost-wax method. That casting, which stands more than 20 feet high and weighs 8 tons, appears in Rodin Rediscovered, the National Gallery's international loan exhibition scheduled to close January 31.

Produced by Iris Cantor and David Saxon, Rodin: The Gates of Hell juxtaposes the intense, painstaking work at the Coubertin Foundry from 1977 to 1980, when the casting was completed, and the twenty-year development of Rodin's vision for The Gates of Hell, a vision he rendered in plaster but never realized in bronze in his lifetime. As the script, written by Paul Boorstin, points out, both endeavors ultimately became aesthetic triumphs, but only after perseverance through periods of crushing personal defeat.

The film was shot on location at the Coubertin Foundry near Paris, where every step in the complex process of lost-wax casting was recorded.

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Other locations include Brussels, where examples of Rodin's early work reside, and Florence, which Rodin visited in 1875 to see firsthand the masterpieces of Michelangelo, and Ghiberti's Doors of Paradise. Footage from these locations is combined with photographs from the period of Rodin's life and drawings from the sketchbooks he filled in Florence.

Hours for the public showings of the film are as follows: Friday, January 29, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Saturday, January 30, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.; Sunday, January 31, 6 p.m.

END

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director (Information Officer) or Mary Dyer, Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C. 20565, area code 202, 842-6353.