

# Rubinstein Film a Musical Joy

By ANN GUARINO

★ ★ ★ ½★

"Arthur Rubinstein—Love of Life" at the Festival Theater is a delightful documentary on the internationally acclaimed artist of the keyboard.

Those who missed his performance last week at Avery Fisher Hall can catch up on his matchless technique as he performs excerpts and engagingly discusses his style and political beliefs.

A camera, directed by Francois Reichenbach and S. G. Patris, followed Rubinstein, now 88, on his trip to Paris and Israel six years ago as he planned concerts in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

A running interview with the engaging pianist is crosscut with clips of previous performances, rehearsals and scenes of his younger days with his wife and children. A nostalgic visit to his old home in Paris is included.

**RUBINSTEIN TALKS** at his summer residence at Marbella Spain. He recalls how as a four-year-old he became famous in Poland for turning pages for his sisters as they played the piano. Encouraged to pursue the violin, Rubinstein deliberately broke the instrument and was spanked. He was more at home with the piano.

He tells how he stopped studying because his family could not afford lessons. He went to Paris at 17 and became an instant success at a gala. He admits he played all the wrong notes but

"Arthur Rubinstein—Love of Life," a New Yorker Films release in color. A documentary produced by Francois Reichenbach and Bernard Gavoty and directed by Reichenbach and S. G. Patris. Presented at the Festival Theater. Running time: 1 hour, 31 minutes.

"by some joke people thought I was a finished player."

As Rubinstein talks, discusses his technique and demonstrates with passages from Beethoven, Chopin, Brahms and Villa-Lobos, what comes across is his love of music which obviously is his very soul. His strong agile fingers performing smooth arpeggios make piano playing look so easy.

The film includes his virile treatment of Chopin's famous "Polonaise" and closes with a tender rendition of Liszt's "Reve D'Armour (Love's Dream)" at a concert in Israel.

**RUBINSTEIN HAS** found youth in his music. He remarks, "When I play, I make love. It's the same thing." He considers the Shubert Quintette beautiful and "an entrance to heaven." He would like to hear it played when he is dying.

Offered an honorary citizenship in France, he turned it down in favor of American citizenship because "my name is not funny here."

Rubinstein registers as a charming person who acts out his stories, who tells jokes on himself and who is careful of his appearance. He wears his hat

at a jaunty youthful angle, making sure his hair is just so.

The film is a must for all serious music lovers for it entertainingly presents Rubenstein, the man and his music.

## 'Oil Lamps' to Light Up

"Oil Lamps," Gold Medal winner at the Atlanta Film Festival and directed by Czechoslovakian filmmaker Juraj Herz, will open March 9 at the Playbox Theater. Starring Iva Janzurova, Peter Cepek and Mary Rosulkova, the film centers on a tragic love story about a girl who fears spinsterhood and marries a young Austrian army lieutenant on his discharge only to discover that the marriage cannot be consummated.

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