BERGMAN FEATURED

Guild Plans Eleven Top Foreign Films

By MARK MONTGOMERY

The Rice Film Guild, a small group interested in bringing to the campus a program of the best films from foreign lands, is once again offering eleven foreign films to subscribers.

"Time" recently published a special report on the revival of foreign cinema as an international art, and the film guild is offering a selection of the many projects the pioneering directors discussed.

JAPAN'S AKIRA Kurosawa, whose "Rashomon" marked the beginnings of the new era in 1950, is represented by "The Seven Samurais" (Feb. 4), a 1954 work that many consider the best action movie ever made.

The real force behind the new movement has been Sweden's Ingmar Bergman, whose films are continually being revived in large cities all over the world.

THE FILM GUILD offers three of his best—"Smiles of a Summer Night" (Nov. 5), a risqué comedy; "Wild Strawberries," (Nov. 26), a masterpiece of human revelation, presented in some of the most beautiful black and white photography ever seen, and "The Magician" (Jan. 7), an eerie study of the effect a troupe of traveling performers has on a Swedish household in the late 19th century.

Bergman, perhaps more than any other "art film" director, is fascinating even when not wholly understood, and the acting of his dedicated repertoire group is of a quality rarely seen elsewhere. Those interested in films who have never come under Bergman's mesmerism shouldn't miss this opportunity.

BERGMAN TOOK Paris by storm and inspired a "new wave" of French films of the fifties. One of these, Alain Resnais's "Hiroshima, Mon Amour," a tragic story of Hiroshima on the eve of the Atomic Age, is first on the schedule, Oct. 29. On Nov. 12 the Italian film "The Bicycle Thief," an example of early post-war Italian neo-realism, will be shown.

During the fifties Italian films were stiffified by politicians afraid that "sensuous movies" were hurting the tourist trade, but as the decade closed new directors brought a revival with such films as Fellini's monumental "La Dolce Vita" (Feb. 11) and Visconti's "Rocco and his Brothers" (March 10).

"VIRIDIANA," a Spanish film by a director named Bunuel, will be shown Feb. 25. Bunuel isn't part of the postwar revival; he's been shocking his audiences while satirizing Spanish society for over thirty years.

His parody of the Last Supper, re-enacted by peasants who work the fields by day, while the phomographic blasts Handel's "Messiah" is unforgettable.

"Kana" (March 24), a stark flight through the sewers of Nazi-occupied Warsaw, is a good representative of the new films being made in the satellite countries.

D. W. GRIFFITH'S historical classic "The Birth of a Nation" will be shown Dec. 15. This silent epic of reconstruction in the South, using unheard-of new techniques to move its audience, caused race riots in many cities when released in 1915.

Films are shown on weeknights in Hamman Hall beginning at 7:15 p.m.; membership is four dollars, with allowances for guests. Look for announcements of membership sales in the college and in the student center this Saturday or Tuesday mornings, 9-12 pm. If enough memberships are sold, a twelfth film, Antonioni's Italian opus "L'Aventura" will be shown April 7.