

THE SILENT TREATMENT

ALL THE NEWS FIT TO HEAR • VOLUME 01 • ISSUE 02 • JUNE 2007

SAN FRANCISCO SILENT FILM FESTIVAL

The art of silent film will be restored to its original brilliance when **The 12th Annual San Francisco Silent Film Festival** brings a classic love story, a dramatic portrayal of hobo life, a British suspense-thriller and other great silent films back to the big screen, all with live musical accompaniment, on July 13-15 at the Castro Theatre.



Among the special programs that will highlight the 2007 festival is an Opening Night Presentation of Ernst Lubitsch's **THE STUDENT PRINCE IN OLD HEIDELBERG** (1927), starring Norma Shearer and Ramon Novarro. The festival also will screen William A. Wellman's **BEGGARS OF LIFE** (1928), a gritty, unsentimental portrait of hobo life starring Richard Arlen, Louise Brooks and Wallace Beery. Live musical accompaniment will be provided by The Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra, a chamber ensemble that performs period- authentic photoplay music.

A COTTAGE ON DARTMOOR (1929), directed by Anthony Asquith, is a psychological thriller which relates the story of a love triangle between a barber's assistant, a manicurist, and one of their clients. The musical accompaniment will be

provided by pianist Stephen Horne who will perform his acclaimed solo score for this film.

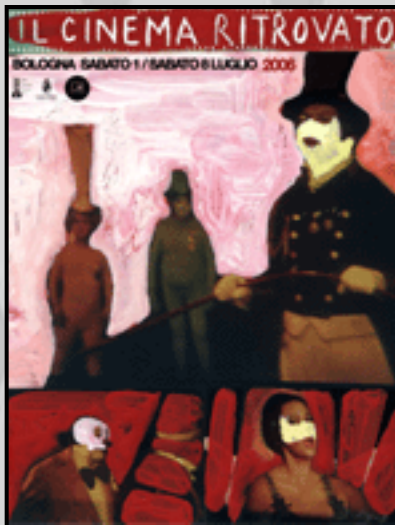
The festival's tribute to Turner Classic Movies will feature a rare screening of the infamous 1921 version of **CAMILLE**, starring Rudolph Valentino and Alla Nazimova.

Complete program details and information available at <http://www.silentfilm.org>.

IL CINEMA RITROVATO

**FEATURING RESTORED &
RECOVERED SILENTS**

*Saturday June 30th - Saturday
July 7th 2007*



BOLOGNA. The list of recovered and restored films is one of the finest ever... Great names of silent cinema: Lubitsch (*Als Ich Tot War*, 1916), Von Stroheim (Austria's restoration of *Blind Husbands*, 1919), De Mille (*Dynamite*, 1929), Stiller (*Madame de Thèbes*, 1915). More exciting silents: from Germany, "*Schatten der Weltstadt*" (Willi Wolff, 1925); a Polish find, "*A Strong Man*" (Henryk Szaro, 1929); and the most amaz-

ing discovery of all, a Swedish film called "*The Spring of Life*" (Paul Garbagni, 1912), with the holy trio of Sjöström, Stiller, and af Klercker as actors! From Italy there will be "*L'Odisea*" (Bertolini-Padovan, 1911), "*Maciste Imperatore*" (Guido Brignone, 1924), and the beginning of the Ghione Project.

SILENTS UNDER THE STARS 20TH ANNIVERSARY



The Silent Society will be presenting two evening screenings to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the "Silents Under the Stars" series at the Paramount Ranch National Park in Augora Hills, CA. Call (805) 370-2301 for additional information.

July 15 (8pm):

THE KID BROTHER (1927)

Starring Harold Lloyd, directed by Ted Wilde.

August 18 (7:30pm):

THE CLINGING VINE (1926)

Starring Leatrice Joy & Tom Moore.

Surprise short subjects to be shown before each feature.

GUY MADDIN BUTB! TOUR ANNOUNCED

BRAND UPON THE BRAIN! will be presented as an expansive live event in select cities, with an

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11-piece LIVE orchestra, a 5-piece LIVE Foley (sound effects) team a LIVE celebrity narrator, and Castrato supplementing the filmic image to comprise a one-of-a-kind cinematic spectacle. Filmmaker Guy Maddin will also appear in person to present the film at select historic cinemas in Chicago (The Music Box), New York (The Village East) and Los Angeles (The Egyptian Theatre). Following the live tour, BRAND! will open in platform release as a regular film, with a pre-recorded soundtrack narrated by Isabella Rossellini.



BRAND! has an exclusive engagement at The Egyptian beginning Friday, June 8th - June 14th, but the LIVE show only runs on the 8th, 9th, and 10th. Guy Maddin is expected to be present to introduce the films.

The official website is: www.branduponthebrain.com.

Recovered Mabel Normand Comedy Featured at Biennale

AMSTERDAM. From 11 to 15 April, the Filmmuseum in Amsterdam presented the third edition of the Filmmuseum Biennale. During this biennial film festival, the Filmmuseum screened silent films accompanied by live performances of new soundtracks, as well as unique discoveries from its historic film collection. The festival opened on Wednesday evening with the world premiere of *The Floor Below*, an American silent comedy from 1918 by C.G. Bad-

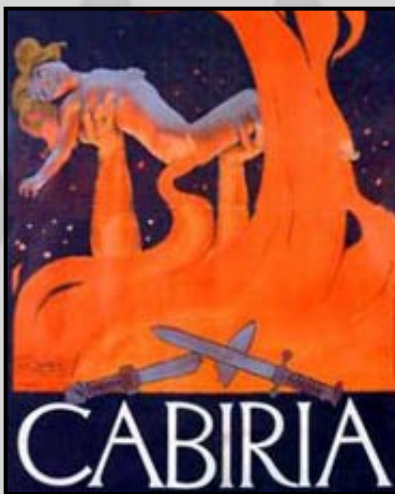
ger, starring comedienne Mabel Normand - 'the female Charlie Chaplin'. The film was considered lost until the Filmmuseum found a copy in the estate of a Dutch collector.

Read the entire article at <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/04-11-2007/0004563366&EDATE=>

TO SAVE AND PROJECT

The Fifth MoMA International Festival of Film Preservation
June 1-18, 2007

The films in *To Save and Project* were preserved through the collaborative efforts of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAP) and the world's leading commercial studios and distributors. Virtually all are having their New York premieres, and some are shown in versions never before seen in the United States.



Cabiria. 1914. Italy. Written and directed by Giovanni Pastrone. World cinema's first great historical epic, restored to its original length and vibrant colors.

The Story of the Kelly Gang. 1906. Australia. Directed by Charles Tait. The surviving fragments of what is

believed to be the first feature-length narrative film ever made.

KoKo's Earth Control. 1928. USA. Directed by Dave Fleischer. KoKo the Clown and his dog cause gravity and other forces to go awry. Preserved by UCLA Film and Television Archive.

Verdens Undergang (The End of the World). 1916. Denmark. Directed by August Blom. Screenplay by Otto Rung. With Olaf Fonss, Ebba Thomsen. A scientist discovers a comet careening toward Earth and public pandemonium ensues. An early and rarely screened classic of the doomsday genre. Preserved by the Danish Film Institute.



La Fille de l'eau (Whirlpool of Fate). 1925. France. Directed by Jean Renoir. Renoir's first film stars his silent muse, Catherine Hessling, as a girl who suffers terrible misfortunes at the hands of family and rescuers alike. Restored by the Cinémathèque Française, Paris.

The Big Parade. 1925. USA. Directed by King Vidor. With John Gilbert, Renée Adorée, Karl Dane. Vidor's searing—and timeless—indictment of war has been restored by George Eastman House and Warner Bros. to its original full length, with color tinting and toning, from original and duplicate 35mm nitrate negatives.

Terje Vigen (A Man There Was). 1917. Sweden. Directed by Victor Sjöström. Widely praised upon its initial release, A Man There Was is the story of an aging sailor who looks back on the injustices he has suffered in life yet refrains from exact-

ing revenge. Sjöström and Molander generate great power and pathos by largely keeping the intertitles true to Ibsen's original text. Restored by the Svenska Filminstitutet.

Daughters Who Pay. 1925. USA. Directed by George Terwilliger. With Bela Lugosi, Margaret De La Motte. Margaret Smith lives a double life as a saucy Russian dancer during the week and a respectable young woman on her days off. When her brother gets into financial trouble, her two identities unravel and collide. Preserved by George Eastman House.

Der Turm des Schweigens (The Tower of Silence). 1925. Germany. Directed by Johannes Guter. A melodramatic UFA release about generational guilt and revenge, of the sort that filled Weimar-era theaters week after week, this is but one of over a hundred films directed by the prodigiously reliable Guter. Restored by the Friedrich-Wilhelm-Murnau-Stiftung, Wiesbaden.

Sarah Bernhardt: The Art of High Drama

June 15 - September 16, 2007



AMSTERDAM. The Joods Historisch Museum (Jewish Historical Museum) presents an exhibition from Sarah Bernhardt: Europe's first international superstar. During the course of an astonishing career that spanned sixty years, the 'divine Sarah' became the West's leading tragedienne. Her name became synonymous with

acting and continued to cast a spell on players and audiences throughout the world long after her death in 1923. Bernhardt, born five years after the invention of photography, pioneered modern methods to publicize her image. She was the first stage actress to appear in motion pictures.

Over two hundred spectacular and rarely displayed objects bring her life, fame and theatrical personality into focus, as well as the fashion, style and politics of the fin de siècle. Besides paintings, photos, clothes and Art Nouveau theater posters, the show presents personal possessions, a recording of her voice and fragments of films in which she appeared.

For further information, go to <http://www.jhm.nl/exhibitions.aspx?ID=120>

CHAPLIN'S CAMERA TO BE AUCTIONED

The movie camera that Charlie Chaplin used to make many of his classic films is to go under the hammer at Christie's in south Kensington, west London, on July 25. Chaplin bought the Bell & Howell camera in 1918 for use at his newly-established studio in Hollywood. It is believed that he used it personally in the shooting of his best-known silent movies, including *The Kid* (1921) and *The Gold Rush* (1925).

The Bell & Howell model 2709 camera, with its distinctive "Mickey Mouse ears", was the mainstay of film production around the 1920s, before the advent of talking pictures. Chaplin used this example between 1918 and 1926.

The London-born star set up Chaplin Studios in 1918, after a string of hit films had turned him into a major Hollywood player.

<http://www.burnleytoday.co.uk/view-article.aspx?articleid=2868568>

NORMAN STUDIOS TO BE RENOVATED

By LAUREL WRIGHT (Excerpted from the *Arlington Sun*).



FLORIDA. And ... action. On April 20th, City and civic officials revealed plans Friday for a \$681,000 renovation of the historic Norman Studios complex in Arlington that housed silent film studios in the 1920s. The project to restore the complex will begin in May, with a goal for completion in 2008.

Once the renovations are completed, the buildings will be opened as a landmark and a museum, officials said. Dick Norman, son of the late owner of the studios, said the renovations are the "most wonderful thing that could happen to Jacksonville and our family."

Norman Studios was owned by the late Richard Norman. Between 1920 and 1928, the studios made six feature films and many short films. Norman's films were unique because he worked with all-black crews and casts, which was rare during the time period, officials said. The only surviving film, *The Flying Ace*, an aerial adventure, will be shown in the studios once the renovations are complete.

Full article at http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/042507/ner_164966190.shtml

Silent Cinema Inc. Launches New Website

Co-owners John Hillman and Marcelo Coronado are announcing the launch of SilentCinema.com (www.silentcinema.com) on **June 1, 2007**. The website will offer vintage original movie posters, lobby cards, still photographs and other movie memorabilia from all genres and decades through the present day, but will specialize in silent film memorabilia. To obtain more information on SilentCinema.com, or if you have any questions relating to silent film memorabilia, you may contact them via email at info@silentcinema.com or by calling (323) 464-4418.

NEW TO DVD



Follow a new twist in the warped road of delirium in this "remix" of this silent film era classic, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*. Writer and director David Lee Fisher scanned the original backgrounds of the 1919 German Expressionist film and put speaking actors into the mix, including Doug Jones (Pan's Labyrinth, Hellboy, Doom) as somnambulist Cesare, breathing new life into the work known as the world's first horror movie. <http://www.image-entertainment.com/dvd/detail.cfm?productID=62614>

SILENT SPOTLIGHT

LON CHANEY: *a monochrome chameleon*



By Geoffrey Macnab (Excerpted from *The Independent*.)

Lon Chaney (1883-1930) is a paradox. He was a character actor unrecognisable to most cinemagoers, but he became the biggest star of his era. He was a man who terrified, intrigued and revolted audiences in equal measure in famous roles such as *The Phantom of the Opera* or *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, but was known to be courteous and soft-spoken. Chaney was a shape shifter, and grotesques were his speciality. He could play hunchbacks, limbless gangsters, Dickensian villains, clowns, insane surgeons, old ladies, and vampires.

The usual explanation for his wildly expressive acting style was the fact that his parents were deaf mutes. Growing up in a world of silence gave him an uncanny gift for gesture. Allied to this was his painstaking approach to make-up and his astounding athletic prowess.

At his best, Chaney evoked pathos and terror in equal measure. The unmasking of the phantom in *The Phantom of the Opera* is arguably the most memorable moment in any Chaney movie. As he is exposed by the woman he loves, we see his rage. Typically, Chaney twists the scene. "Feast your eyes - glut your soul,

on my accursed ugliness!" reads the intertitle, but by now the phantom's self-loathing is obvious. Somehow, Chaney makes us feel sorry for him.

More than 70 years after his last movie, Chaney still has the ability to induce a sense of dread in even the most hard-bitten audiences. *Entire article at <http://enjoyment.independent.co.uk/film/features/article2424426.ece>*

BOOKS

Sessue Hayakawa: Silent Cinema and Transnational Stardom

While the actor Sessue Hayakawa (1886-1973) is best known today for his Oscar-nominated turn as a Japanese military officer in *The Bridge on the River Kwai* (1957), in the early twentieth century he was an internationally renowned silent film star. Author Daisuke Miyao reconstructs the Japanese actor's remarkable career, from his rise to fame as the star of Cecil B. DeMille's *The Cheat* (1915) through his reign as a matinee idol and the subsequent decline and resurrection of his Hollywood fortunes. http://www.aapress.com/index.php?subaction=showcomments&id=1175817003&archive=&start_from=&ucat=6

MOMENTS IN SILENCE

June 10, 1924 - MGM dismisses entire film crew of *Ben-Hur*

June 12, 1923 - Marlene Dietrich's first screen appearance in *A Man on the Path*

June 29, 1918 - Cinematographer John Van den Broek drowns while filming *Woman*

July 31, 1915 - Mack Sennett introduces the "Bathing Beauties"

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