

# THE SILENT TREATMENT

ALL THE NEWS FIT TO HEAR • VOLUME 01 • ISSUE 03 • AUG/SEP 2007

## GERMANY'S BONNER SOMMERKINO TO ROLL

Bonner Sommerkino kicks off with a new restoration of *Erotikon* (1920) - a Swedish relationship comedy directed by Mauritz Stiller. The live music accompaniment is by the esteemed Aljoscha Zimmermann on piano and his daughter Sabrina Hausmann on Violin.

Other highlights include Joe Mays fantasy-adventure duo, *Das Indische Grabmal* (The Indian Tombstone) and *Der Tiger Von Eschnapur* (The Tiger of Eschnapur) both from 1921 and were later remade by Fritz Lang in the 1950's. Also playing will be Victor Sjöström's *The Scarlet Letter* from 1926 starring



*Erotikon*

Lillian Gish and Lars Hanson, and Joseph Von Sternberg's gangster classic *Underworld* from 1927.

Also featured will be an evening with Japanese silent comedies produced in 1930's, plus a presentation on the history of 3D cinema with films from 1896 to 1916. The screenings are free and run from August 9th through August 19th.

Official website (German language only): <http://www.film-ist-kultur.de>



Lois Weber

## NFPF AWARDS GRANT MONEY

### More Silents Slated for Preservation

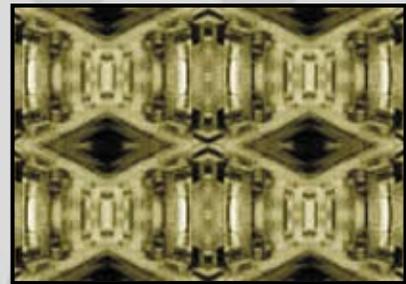
Francis Ford's *When Lincoln Paid* (1913), a "lost" two-reeler discovered in a New Hampshire barn and *The Daughter of Dawn* (1920) a western filmed in Oklahoma with a Native American cast, are among the 57 films to be saved through grants awarded by the National Film Preservation Foundation. The NFPF will enable 27 libraries, museums, and archives to save American films that are unlikely to survive without public support. Two awards will fund the 35mm reconstructions of legendary American silent features: Lois Weber's *Shoes* (1916), a feature-length exposé of the plight of underpaid shop girls, and Edward Curtis's *In the Land of the Head Hunters* (1914), filmed in British Columbia with a all native cast.

(Excerpted Press Release, 6/15/07)

For full list of funded projects, visit the NFPF Web site: [www.film-preservation.org](http://www.film-preservation.org).

## MODERN DOCUMENTARY PAYS HOMAGE TO VERTOV

In 1999, the Portuguese film festival selection committee asked Cinematic Orchestra's Jason Swinscoe to compose a new score for a screening of Dziga Vertov's 1929 avant-garde documentary *Man With a Movie Camera*. Inspired by the new composition, filmmaker Pedro Quintas re-purposed excerpts of the soundtrack to his own modern silent documentary *O Homem da Camera en Movimento* replicating the style of Vertov's filmmaking with the city of Lisbon as a backdrop.



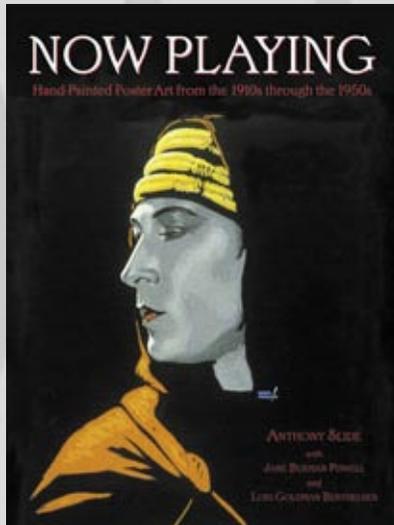
Made in 2006 with a running time of 61 minutes, this documentary is available for viewing and free download via THE INTERNET ARCHIVE website ([www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)). For more information regarding the filmmaker, visit [www.pedroquintas.com/shortfilms.html](http://www.pedroquintas.com/shortfilms.html).

## NOW PLAYING:

### Hand-Painted Poster Art from the 1910s Through the 1950s

Once regarded as disposable signs to be enjoyed briefly and then changed as quickly as the marquee, early hand-painted movie posters were more often destroyed than (continued on page 2)

saved. Presented in conjunction with the release of the book *Now Playing: Hand Painted Poster Art from the 1910s to the 1950s*, this exhibition features remarkable, rarely seen works by such artists as Batiste Madalena, Edwin Isaac (Ike) Checketts, O.M. (Otto) Wise, and R.J. (Renfred) Rogers.



The exhibition also illuminates the differences between exhibitor-commissioned posters and their studio-produced counterparts. Madalena's extravagant rendering of star Pola Negri in a poster for *Hotel Imperial* is juxtaposed with the studio's poster for the film. Wise's deeply emotive painting for Raoul Walsh's *The Man Who Came Back* can be seen side-by-side with a corresponding studio window card. Both Madalena's and Checkett's posters for *The Humming Bird* are displayed alongside the studio publicity still that was sent to both artists.

*Now Playing at the Dunn* can be viewed whenever Academy public programs are hosted at the Linwood Dunn Theater inside the Pickford Center for Motion Picture Study (Hollywood).

(Info courtesy of AMPAS and [www.oscars.org](http://www.oscars.org) website)

## NEW SCORE FOR BEAU BRUMMELL

### TCM Young Composer Contest Winner Announced

On July 25th at the Skirball Center in Los Angeles, the winner of The 8th Annual Young Film Composers contest was announced. James Schaffer, of Rancho Cucamonga, CA, has been assigned to compose an original score for the 1924 historical drama *Beau Brummell* starring John Barrymore and Mary Astor. The film and its new score is set for a world premiere broadcast on the TCM network sometime in late January 2008.



## CINESATION 2007

Running Sept. 27th – 30th

Returning to the historic Lincoln Theater in Massillon, Ohio, the current lineup includes the following highlights (subject to change):

### *The Willow Tree*

(Drama, 1920). Directed by Henry Otto. Stars: Viola Dana, Edward Connelly, Pell Trenton. 35mm print provided by The George Eastman House and funded by Saving the Silents.

### *The Matrimaniac*

(Comedy, 1916) Stars: Douglas Fairbanks, Constance Talmadge

### *Daughters Who Pay*

(Melodrama, 1925). Directed by

George Terwilliger. Stars: Marguerite De La Motte, John Bowers, Bela Lugosi. 35mm print provided by The George Eastman House and funded by The Film Foundation

### *Rubber Tires*

(Comedy, 1927). Directed by Alan Hale. Stars: Bessie Love, Erwin Connelly, May Robson, Harrison Ford.

(Website: [http://www.cinephiles.org/The\\_Fall\\_Cinesation.html](http://www.cinephiles.org/The_Fall_Cinesation.html))

## SILENT CINEMA IN CULTRA REBUILT

A whole cinema from a County Down village has been rebuilt at the Ulster Folk Museum in Cultra, Ireland. The cinema was only in operation in the upstairs of a barn in Gilford for about ten years in the 1920s.

At that time there were thousands working in the local mill and people also came from nearby Scarva and Tandragee to view the latest Charlie Chaplin silent film, accompanied by piano. "Most of the actual cinema building, is in its entirety and they've made a really marvelous job of rebuilding it," said John Lunney, who donated it.



The cinema, which will again be showing Charlie Chaplin films, is one of several new/old exhibits at Cultra. (excerpted from a BBC News article "Silent cinema is talk of Cultra.")

Full article: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern\\_ireland/6750645.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/6750645.stm)

## CIRCUS STAR EMULATES ORIGINAL 'CLOWNS' OF SILENT SCREEN

Bello Nock, the carrot-topped main attraction at the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, is starring in a series of silent shorts styled after Chaplin and Keaton. "It was as creative as what people are seeing now, and sometimes more so," Nock said of the silent-film era.



The new films are the brainchild of a pair of Colorado businessmen, Kerry Berman and Mark Margulies. "There were some wonderful, wonderful comedic and very gifted actors at that time," Margulies said of the silent movies of the 1920s.

They thought that if they could resurrect that style of comedy and translate it to the Internet, they could hook a new generation on the form. After two years of planning and filming, the Parker-based site, called Family Flickers ([familyflickers.com](http://familyflickers.com)), went live in January.

Nock, the jester famous for his 8-inch high shock of hair, was their first choice to star in their comedies, and he was onboard with the idea as soon as he heard about it. Every comic, he said, owes a debt to silent stars.

And the family-friendly aspect of the shorts appealed to him, too.

(Full length article: [http://www.gazette.com/entertainment/nock\\_23517\\_\\_article.html/glory\\_main.html](http://www.gazette.com/entertainment/nock_23517__article.html/glory_main.html))

## EATING WITH THE EARLY STARS?

LOS ANGELES. Few restaurants can claim a more intimate relationship with the luminaries of yesteryear – that their premises were once the star's homes. Beware these lofty claims. As a wise philosopher once observed, "The history of Hollywood is also the history of hucksters."

Consider **El Cid**, the Silver Lake dinner theater that claims to have been built by D.W. Griffith and used for the movie *The Birth of a Nation*. Film historian Marc Wanamaker says there's a kernel of truth here – several scenes of that 1914 epic were shot in this location, including the ones involving KKK members galloping horses through a cornfield. Unfortunately for the legend, most of the restaurant as we now know it is where that cornfield was; there was only a small one-room building on the land back then.

Some Hollywood stars became substantial landowners around L.A., which complicates other claims to fame. The cottage that houses **Lucques** in West Hollywood may have indeed been owned by silent comedian Harold Lloyd, but Lloyd's only connection was probably as landlord to whoever lived there.

**The House of Blues** on Sunset Boulevard and Sweetzer Avenue has a valid connection to one star: silent era leading man Wallace Reid. Reid lived in a small house situated where the live music and famous Sunday brunch venue stands today. His man-

sion was being built across the street, and from there he could watch the progress. Unfortunately, Reid died of a morphine overdose in 1923 before the project was complete, so the smaller residence proved his last.

One of the most celebrated modern restaurants with an old Hollywood connection is **Campanile** on La Brea Avenue. Its building was long owned by Lita Chaplin, Charlie Chaplin's second wife. Whether she ever jointly owned it with Charlie is contested – Wanamaker says she bought it with money from their divorce settlement, while the restaurant's promotional material says that it was built for the couple prior to their divorce.

(Read Full Article at: <http://www.lacitybeat.com/article.php?id=5561&IssueNum=207>)

## HITCHCOCK'S "LODGER" OPENS NEW DOORS

(Excerpted from *Hollywood Reporter*)  
By Tatiana Siegel



David Ondaatje has signed on to direct a remake of Alfred Hitchcock's first film, *The Lodger*, for Sony Pictures Entertainment. Re-imagined as an urban thriller set in Los Angeles, the film marks Ondaatje's directorial debut.

Michael Mailer will produce alongside Ondaatje, who also adapted the screenplay from Marie Belloc (continued on page 4)

Lowndes; novel. The novel served as the basis for Hitchcock's 1927 film.

*Lodger* is based on the true story of hysteria caused by Jack the Ripper's killing spree that took place over several weeks in 1888. Ondaatje's adaptation is broken into two converging plot lines set in present-day Los Angeles. The first involves an uneasy relationship between a psychologically unstable landlady and her enigmatic lodger, and the second is about a troubled detective engaged in a cat-and-mouse game with an unknown killer.

### UCLA SILENT STUDY GUIDE

The UCLA Film & Television Archive has produced a new study guide, *PRESERVATION EXAMPLES: SILENTS TO THE DAWN OF SOUND*, that provides an overview of UCLA's preservation work that is available for viewing through their Archive Research & Study Center (ARSC). The varied collection of titles listed includes features and shorts from 1905 (e.g. *Bronco Billy in Society*) to 1930 (e.g. *Sarah and Son*). All of the titles listed in the study guide are available for researching viewing by appointment.

To download the study guide, go to: <http://www.cinema.ucla.edu/collections/Profiles/preservation.html>.

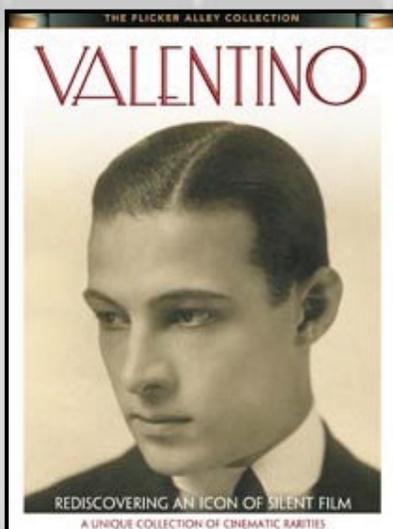
Additional preservation titles are listed in the Archive's online catalog at: <http://cinema.library.ucla.edu>. For more info, please contact: [arsc@ucla.edu](mailto:arsc@ucla.edu).

### NEW TO DVD

#### THE VALENTINO COLLECTION

As one of the most iconic personalities of the silent film era, Rudolph Valentino's undeniable cultural resonance both on and off the screen, coupled with his untimely death in August of 1926, has made him a recognizable and still-relevant

figure throughout the world. "THE VALENTINO COLLECTION" is a definitive DVD overview containing digital reconstructions and DVD premieres of four unavailable Rudolph Valentino films—*The Young Rajah* (1922) and *Stolen Moments* (1920), featuring new musical scores by Jon Mirsalis; *A Society Sensation* (1918), featuring Bob Mitchell at the pipe organ, and *Moran of the Lady Letty* (score by Robert Israel). This collection boasts an extensive selection of bonus features and is slated for release on September 4th, 2007. ([www.flickeralley.com](http://www.flickeralley.com))



### TST BOOKCORNER

#### THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET

By Brian Selznick

Orphaned twelve-year-old Hugo Cabret lives in a train station in Paris in 1931, managing to survive by stealing food and keeping his uncle's disappearance a secret. Hugo runs the clocks in the city for his uncle and pilfers small toy parts in the hopes of fixing an automaton that he received from his father. Eventually his plan of surviving on his own fails, and he befriends a young girl and her grandfather, who owns a toyshop in the

train station. The grandfather recognizes Hugo's talent for repairing machinery and employs him at the toy store. The girl's grandfather turns out to be the famous filmmaker **Georges Méliès**, who adopts Hugo and fosters his love for magic.



Selznick's artwork in this "novel in words and pictures" is stunning. Beautiful, full-page black-and-white illustrations are interspersed throughout the book and advance the story, often in critical areas of the plot. Readers will also love the still film images that are used when the characters discuss Méliès's films. The novel is loosely based on the actual French filmmaker, and the credits section at the end gives more information about Méliès, films from the early movie era, and automatons.

(From: [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com))

### MOMENTS IN SILENCE

**August 24, 1919** – Harold Lloyd loses a thumb and finger on his right hand during a prop bomb explosion.

**August 25, 1918** – Abel Gance begins filming *J'accuse*.

**September 14, 1921** – Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle charged with manslaughter.

**September 23, 1912** – First Keystone Studio production released.

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