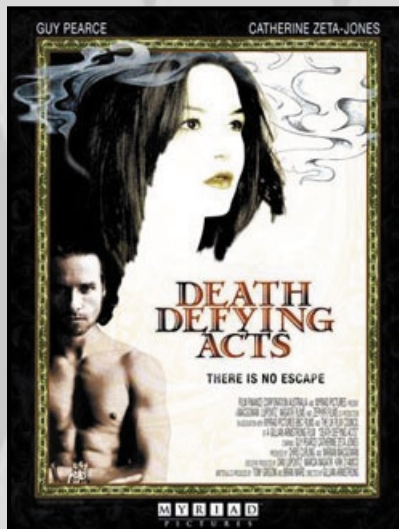


# THE SILENT TREATMENT

ALL THE NEWS FIT TO HEAR • VOLUME 01 • ISSUE 04 • OCT/NOV 2007

## HOUDINI STAGES REAPPEARANCE IN "DEATH DEFYING ACTS"

Australian director Gillian Armstrong has helmed a new biopic based on true events during the life and times of master escape artist Harry Houdini. *Death Defying Acts* recalls a tour in Britain in 1926, where during his travels throughout the countryside, Harry meets and falls for a Scottish psychic who also moonlights as a con artist. This romantic thriller stars Guy Pearce as Houdini, and Catherine Zeta-Jones as his love interest Mary McGregor.

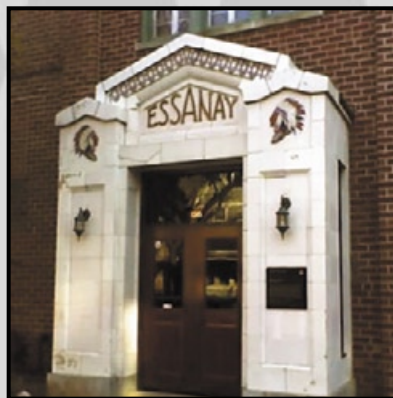


The Weinstein Company has acquired all domestic distribution rights to the feature, that had a premiere in September at the Toronto International Film Festival, and hopes to release the picture in the USA and UK before the close of 2007.

A source close to the film said the studio is conjuring up some \$5.5 mil-

lion in marketing "Death Defying," which was produced for less than \$20 million. (See [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com) or [www.tiff07.ca](http://www.tiff07.ca) for details)

## WINDY CITY CELEBRATES ESSANAY CENTENARY



August 10, 2007 marked the 100th Anniversary of the **Essanay Film Manufacturing Company** originally established in Chicago, IL. For ten years, Essanay produced a variety of short subjects and played host to many icons of the silent era, including western hero, G.M. "Bronco Billy" Anderson (a co-founder of the studio), comedians Ben Turpin and Charlie Chaplin, Wallace Beery, Gloria Swanson and Rod La Rocque, just to name a few.

In honor of its motion picture filmmaking roots, The Chicago International Film Festival is programming a special selection of shorts produced by the Essanay Studios, spanning the years from 1907 thru 1915 at the historic **Music Box Theater**. This unique opportunity to view some priceless pieces of Chicago history takes place on **Sunday,**

**October 14th, at 2:30 pm.** It will be hosted by Chicago Tribune film critic Michael Phillips, along with live piano accompaniment provided by David Drazen, and includes the following selections of rarely seen material: *A Case of Seltzer* (4 min); *An Awful Skate or The Hobo on Rollers* (4 min); *The Misjudged Mr. Hartley* (12 min); *When Soul Meets Soul* (14 min); *Dreamy Dud Resolves Not To Smoke* (8 min); *From the Submerged* (14 min); *His New Job* (30 min). (Info courtesy Chicago Int'l Film Festival, [www.chicagofilmfestival.com](http://www.chicagofilmfestival.com))

## Fflics - Wales Screen Classics festival launched

A major new film festival has been launched, taking place in Aberystwyth from October 25th - 28th 2007. *Fflics - Wales Screen Classics* is a four-day film festival showcasing the history of both Welsh cinema and the Welsh on the big screen; from the earliest cinematic pioneers until the end of the nitrate film era.



Fflics is a joint project between The National Library of Wales and (Continued on Page 2)

Aberystwyth Arts Centre, and will include over 25 films filmed in the first half of the 20th century, together with a series of discussions, live musical performances and special events. Cinematic highlights include a restoration print screening of *How Green Was My Valley* (1941) the premier screening of the newly restored *Y Chwarelwr /The Quarryman* (1935), a gala screening of *The Life Story of David Lloyd George* (1918), plus many, many more films from a classic era. (Website for festival program and details: <http://www.fflics.co.uk/splash.asp>)



Rene Clair

## LE GIORNATE DEL CINEMA MUTO

**Festival Highlights October 6 -13th**

PORDENONE, ITALY. The principal presentation in the 2007 Giornate is what we hope will be only the first part of a revelation of "The Unknown Weimar". The received wisdom of scholars and students of german silent cinema is based on an exclusive canon of around 50 films made by a dozen or so directors, and tending to feature favoured styles or genres, such as "Expressionismus" and "Neue Sachlichkeit".

Another major presentation will be the integral silent cinema of René Clair. *Entr'acte* will be presented with the original score by Erik Satie performed by a Friulian piano duo and introduced by Ornella Volta, founder of Les Archives de la Fondation Erik Satie, Paris. *Paris Qui Dort* will be shown with a newly composed score by Antonio Coppola, performed by the Octuor de France.



We are taking the opportunity to pay tribute to two national archives celebrating anniversaries.

The Netherlands Film Museum achieves its 60th year and we are marking it with a number of loans and in particular a tribute to the early star, Annie Bos. The Hungarian National Film Archive celebrates its 40th anniversary with two outstanding rediscoveries and restorations. The screening of Béla Balogh's adaptation of *The Boys of Pal Street* and *Csak Egy Kislány Van A Világon / Only One Girl in the World*, which is the last Hungarian silent film and also (with a synchronised musical sound-track) the country's first sound film. (For full program details visit: <http://www.cinetecadelfriuli.org/gcm/index2.html>)

## "BLOOD SHIP" SETS SAIL FOR LOST & FOUND

LOS ANGELES. After years of having all but the last ten minutes of this film, the recent discovery of a 16mm print of the final reel

permits *The Blood Ship* (1927) to be screened in its entirety for the first time since its original release. A seafaring adventure drenched in intrigue and skullduggery, this silent Columbia feature features Hobart Bosworth as a man in search of his kidnapped child after serving time in prison for a crime he didn't commit. Richard Arlen co-stars as his young accomplice.

This feature presentation is apart of the AMPAS periodic screening series "Lost And Found" that is designed to showcase archival prints of lost films recently rediscovered or restored. Preceding the exhibition of *The Blood Ship* will be a screening of the first three (and only remaining), reels of *Triumph*, an early Lon Chaney vehicle from 1917. It is a melodrama about an actress in love with a playwright and the stage manager blackmailing her for her affections.



Blood Ship

Both shows are the recent preservation efforts undertaken by the Academy Film Archive, and will run at **7:30 pm on October 11th, 2007** at the Linwood Dunn Theater in the Pickford Center.

(Info courtesy of AMPAS. For more details visit [www.oscars.org](http://www.oscars.org))

## LAUREL & HARDY STATUE TO BE PLACED IN COUNTY SQUARE

ULVERSTON, UK. Plans to erect a statue of Laurel and Hardy in a Cumbrian town have moved a step closer with a £100,000 grant to transform its intended home. The bronze tribute, created by sculptor Graham Ibbeson, has been waiting in storage since 2005 but it is now hoped it can put in place within 18 months.

Stan Laurel was born in the town in 1890 before moving to the US in 1916. The statue will be positioned on the pavement outside the Coronation Hall theatre, where the duo made a public appearance on the balcony in 1947. Access to the County Square is being upgraded with funding from the council, English Heritage and the Friends of the Laurel and Hardy Statue group.



([http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/england/cumbria/6949693.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/cumbria/6949693.stm))

### SILENTS IN THE CATHEDRAL Grace Cathedral, Topeka, Kansas Friday, October 26, 2007

To celebrate our 10th Anniversary, we present an all Short-Subject Program with Halloween Themes, live music provided by Dr. Marvin

Faulwell playing the Cathedral organ. Schedule includes:

- Felix Dines and Pines (1926)*
- The Haunted House (1921)*
- Spook Spoofing (1928)*
- Koko's Haunted House (1928)*
- Haunted Spooks (1920)*
- Habeus Corpus (1928)*



(Full story at: <http://www.kssilentfilmfest.org/SilentsintheCathedral/index.html>)

## "ROBIN HOOD" RETURNS TO NOTTINGHAM

BY JEREMY LEWIS

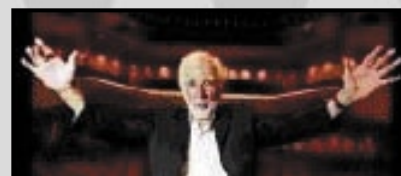
John Scott is working on a score for the classic silent movie *Robin Hood* and will conduct its first performance in Nottingham this autumn, at a special screening of the Douglas Fairbanks film.

"Producing a new score for an old film is more of a challenge," says the triple-Emmy-winning composer whose 60 film scores include *The Deceivers*, *Anthony and Cleopatra*, *King Kong 2* and *Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan*. "With new films you have something to hide behind, like dialogue and special effects. There is an extra responsibility in the case of silent films."

"It [the score] will be written for full symphony orchestra and will have three main themes, starting with Robin's theme," says Bristol-born John, now based mainly in America. "Robin's theme will be swashbuckling, full of spirit and bravado, while Marian's theme is all about love, longing and tenderness. The third will represent the Crusaders before they set off for Palestine - that will stick in the mind."

Robin Hood with the Nottingham Philharmonic Orchestra, will run at the Royal Concert Hall on **October 7, 2007 at 7.30pm.**

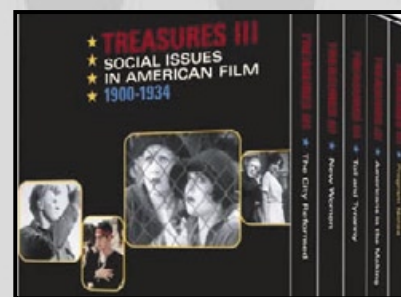
(Full article: <http://www.thisisnottingham.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=195917&command=displayContent&sourceNode=134241&contentPK=17752253&folderPk=78486&pNodeId=133951>)



### NEW TO DVD

## Treasures III: Social Issues in American Film, 1900-1934

With the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Film Preservation Board of the Library of Congress, the NFPF has completed a DVD project to reclaim this little-known history.



The 12-1/4 hour set with book, slated for release on **October 16,**

2007, will present four features and 44 documentaries, cartoons, newsreels, serial episodes, and public service announcements exploring social issues from the period 1900 to 1934.

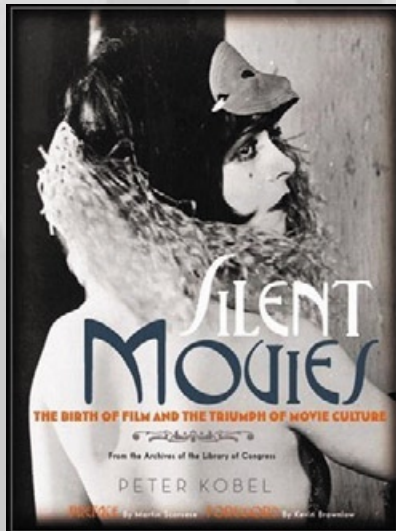
All 48 films are drawn from the preservation work of the nation's foremost early film archives.

## TST BOOKCORNER

### SILENT MOVIES:

#### *The Birth of Film and The Triumph Of Movie Culture*

SILENT MOVIES by Peter Kobel, is a gorgeous, lavish history of silent cinema with more than 400 amazing images-capturing the birth of film and icons like Chaplin, Garbo, Clara Bow, and Valentino.



Drawing on the collection of The Library of Congress, Kobel has created the definitive visual history of silent film. From its birth in the 1890s, with the earliest narrative shorts, through the brilliant full-length features of the 1920s, *Silent Movies* captures the greatest directors and actors and their immortal films. *Silent Movies* also looks at the technology of early film, the use of color photography, and the restoration work being spearheaded by

some of Hollywood's most important directors, such as Martin Scorsese and Francis Ford Coppola.

To supplement the release of this book, The Library of Congress has assembled a multi-city film tour running from **November 9th to December 16th, 2007**, curated by Christel Schmidt of the LOC Publishing Office. Scheduled stops and feature programs include the following destinations:

**MARY PICKFORD THEATER** – Washington, DC. November 9th: Short Subjects, Titles TBA. November 15th: THE WEDDING MARCH (1928) Dir: E. Von Stroheim, Stars: Von Stroheim, Fay Wray. November 30th: BEAU GESTE (1926) Dir: Herbert Brenon, Stars: Ronald Colman, Neil Hamilton

**NTN'L GALLERY OF ART** – Washington, DC. November 11th: WAY DOWN EAST (1920) Dir: D.W. Griffith, Stars: Lillian Gish, Richard Barthelmess. November 17th: THE MERRY WIDOW (1925) Dir: E. Von Stroheim, Stars: John Gilbert, Mae Murray. November 24th: SHOW PEOPLE (1928) Dir: King Vidor, Stars: Marion Davies.

**NTN'L MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS** – Washington, DC: November 13th: CAPITAL PUNISHMENT (1925) Dir: James Hogan, Stars: Clara Bow, Elliott Dexter. HELEN'S BABIES (1924) Dir: William Seiter, Stars: Clara Bow, Baby Peggy

**GOETHE-INSTITUT** – Washington, DC. November 12th: BACKSTAIRS / HINTER-TREPPE (1921) Dir: Paul Leni, L. Jessner, Star: Henry Porten. VARIETY / VARIÉTÉ (1925) Dir: E.A. Dupont, Stars: Emil Jannings, Maly Delschaft. November 19th: TARTUFFE / HERR TARTÜFF (1925) Dir: F.W. Murnau, Stars: H. Picha, Rosa Valetti. November 26th: ASPHALT (1929) Dir: Joe May, Stars: Gustav Fröhlich, Betty Amann

**AFI SILVER THEATER** – SILVER SPRING, MD. November 24th: CHICAGO (1927) Dir: Frank Urson, Stars: Phyllis Haver. SAN FRANCISCO SILENT FILM FESTIVAL; December 1st: FLESH AND THE DEVIL (1926) Dir: Clarence Brown, Stars: John Gilbert, Greta Garbo

**AMERICAN CINEMATHEQUE, EGYPTIAN** – Los Angeles. December 6th: VARIETY / VARIÉTÉ (1925) Dir: E.A. Dupont, Stars: Emil Jannings, Maly Delschaft. ASPHALT (1929) Dir: Joe May. BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC – New York: December 14th: TARTUFFE / HERR TARTÜFF (1925) Dir: F.W. Murnau, Stars: H. Picha, Rosa Valetti

**WALTER READE THEATER @ LINCOLN CENTER** – NY: December 16th: CAPITAL PUNISHMENT (1925). HELEN'S BABIES (1924) Dir: William Seiter, Stars: Clara Bow, Baby Peggy

## SILENT MOVIE CALENDAR

Lovingly crafted and distributed every season by Rodney Sauer, musical director of the Mont-Alto Orchestra, the 2008 Calendar is a must have for any silent film enthusiast. The new calendar features striking photographic stills from several private collectors featuring the likes of Ronald Colman and Constance Talmadge, Lloyd Hughes and Doris Kenyon, Bela Lugosi, and Douglas Fairbanks. Most importantly, this calendar is a benefit project, with all proceeds after printing expenses donated to a film archive in support of maintaining their silent film collections. Visit [www.mont-alto.com](http://www.mont-alto.com) for payment and delivery details.



## MOMENTS IN SILENCE

**October 19, 1918** – Romantic leading star Harold Lockwood dies from the flu pandemic of 1918.

**October 30, 1926** – More than a year in production, Fritz Lang finishes filming *Metropolis*.

**November 1, 1909** – William Selig opens first film studio in Hollywood.

**November 30, 1899** – Alice Guy appointed Head of Production at Gaumont-Paris.

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