

THE SILENT TREATMENT

ALL THE NEWS FIT TO HEAR • VOLUME 02 • NUMBER 01 • JAN/FEB 2008

"BARDELYS THE MAGNIFICENT" RECOVERED!!



One of the most sought-after films in the world has been located nearly intact within a cellar in France. *Bardelys The Magnificent* (1926) is a historical melodrama based on the novel by Rafael Sabatini, directed by **King Vidor** and starring beloved screen idols **John Gilbert** and **Eleanor Boardman**. The picture also has the unusual distinction of marking the first credited screen appearance of now legendary western actor, **John Wayne**, as a guard.

The film was rescued by Serge Bromberg and Eric Lange of Lobster Films in Paris. Thanks to the USC Cinema Library, an original cutting continuity, tint log, and English title list has been obtained, which makes it possible to reconstruct an English version (the current titles are in French). The reconstruction also utilizes a domestic promotional trailer

that luckily contains the original English main art title. The print is missing one middle reel (apparently not critical to the story) which can be bridged thanks to the continuity and production stills. The operators of Lobster Films intend to broadcast *Bardelys* to French audiences on Channel 3 television sometime this summer. (Info courtesy David Shepard, Film Preservation Associates)

VICTOR HUGO: VISIONARY DRAWINGS & FILM

In conjunction with the exhibition of *Victor Hugo: Visionary Drawings* on display from February 1st to May 18th, 2008 at the **Fondation de l'Hermitage** in Lausanne, the **Cinémathèque Suisse** will be hosting a month long tribute of films

adapted from several novels by the author called *Victor Hugo in Film*.

The art exhibition will unveil the surprisingly modern drawings of Victor Hugo (1802-1885), the romantic genius who, in addition to his many talents as a poet and writer, was also a remarkable draughtsman. Pulling primarily from the Maison de Victor Hugo collection in Paris, the selection includes around 100 drawings, collages, manuscripts, letters and prints together with sculptures, photographs, costumes and furniture.

Victor Hugo in Film will run intermittently beginning January 27th



through February 29th at the Cinémathèque, and will include the earliest pictorial adaptations, *Notre-Dame de Paris* (1911) directed by Albert Capellani, the star turning vehicle *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1923) with **Lon Chaney**, and the visually captivating *The Man Who Laughs* (1928) supervised by German import **Paul Leni**. (www.fondation-hermitage.ch, www.cinematheque.ch/ - French language only)

CHAPLIN RETREAT TO OPEN AS MUSEUM

CORSIER-SUR-VEVEY, Switzerland — The vast mansion where **Charlie Chaplin** spent his last 24 years is to be turned into a museum dedicated to his life and the history of cinema in the 20th century.

Fifteen kilometres (nine miles) out of Lausanne, the mansion in English colonial style with white colonades located in a magnificent wooded park of 13 acres, was where Chaplin chose to settle in 1953 with his wife Oona and their 8 children.

The former staff quarters are to be turned into a 200-seat cinema while tapes of Chaplin talking about the secrets of his art will be played to bring alive displays in the house. In the vast vaulted cellars, the museum's designers plan to install a "Hollywood street" (with street lamps) to recreate the atmosphere of the 1920s.

An agreement was signed by the Charlie Chaplin museum foundation to sell the Ban manor house to investors and transform it into a museum recreating the magic universe of the beloved Little Tramp. The project is expected to cost 35 million Swiss francs (30 million dollars) and plans to open its doors at the end of 2009. (<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5gsvPvzHXBnbq8DebnBTSKk9Jn8dw>)

"TOL'ABLE DAVID" JOINS NATIONAL FILM REGISTRY

Tol'able David, a powerful drama known for its craftsmanship and influence on Russian filmmakers of the 1920's, is among three silent pictures elected into the National Film Registry for 2007. Released in 1921, 'Da-

vid' is a coming-of-age story about a youth who must overcome savage, bullying neighbors as he takes on his first job delivering mail in rural Virginia. Directed by **Henry King** with American matinee idol **Richard Barthelmess** in the lead, the film has the unique distinction of receiving the second medal of honor for best picture of the year from **Photoplay** magazine; an honor that was collectively voted on by its readers.



The Photoplay Awards are the earliest known award to acknowledge the popularity and merit towards any feature film, with its inaugural award offered in 1920 to *Humoresque* and concluding in 1939 with *Gone With the Wind*.

Joining the ranks alongside *Tol'able David* in this seasons NFR, are stellar comedies *The Strong Man* with Harry Langdon, who is regarded as the fourth "silent clown" (among Chaplin, Keaton, and Lloyd), and the short subject *Mighty Like a Moose*, featuring actor/screen-writer Charley Chase, both exhibited in 1926.

(For list of all 25 films with extra details, head to <http://www.loc.gov/film/nfr2007.html>)

KANSAS SILENT FILM FESTIVAL February 22nd & 23rd, 2008

Washburn University will present the 12th annual Kansas Silent Film Festival on February 22nd and 23rd, 2008 at White Concert Hall in Topeka, Kansas. It will feature several silent-era short subjects, five feature-length films, and all will be accompanied by live music. **The event is free and open to the public.**

Returning to play at the 2008 Festival are Marvin Faulwell and Greg Foreman on the Concert Hall organ, assisted by Bob Keckeisen on percussion and the five-member Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra from Boulder, Colorado. All films will be introduced by Denise Morrison, archivist for Kansas City's Science City.

Films featuring **Clara Bow**, **Roscoe 'Fatty' Arbuckle**, **Ben Turpin**, **Charley Chase**, **Lillian Gish**, **John Gilbert**, **Harold Lloyd** and **Rin Tin Tin** will be shown.



Titles announced include *The Kid Brother*, *Dancing Mothers*, *Clash of the Wolves*, *Coney Island*, *The Sinking of the Lusitania* and *The Big Parade*. (Full schedule at www.kssilentfilmfest.org)

"METROPOLIS" EYED FOR REMAKE

By Ed Meza (12/09/07)

Producer Thomas Schuehly has acquired the remake rights to Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* and is partnering with Mario Kassar on an updated version of the 1927 sci-fi classic.

The Munich-based Schuehly and Kassar are currently in negotiations with a number of top directors to helm the pic, with a final decision expected in the next few months. Schuehly obtained the rights to the film from Vienna-based publishing group Sessler Verlag.

One of the most groundbreaking films in cinematic history, the influence of *Metropolis* is evident in classic works that have spanned the 20th century, from James Whale's *Frankenstein*, *Dr. Strangelove*, and *2001* to *Blade Runner*, *Gattaca* and *The Matrix*.



Considered one of the most expensive films of its time, the pic is set in 2026 in a massive city-state characterized by its monumental skyscrapers and art-deco architecture.

Schuehly, has produced such films as *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen* and *The Name of the Rose*, as well as Oliver Stone's *Alexander*. (Full article at: <http://www.variety.com/article/VR1117977386.html>)

VISITORS OF THE VICTORINE

By Dana Kennedy

(excerpted from NY Times Article, 05/13/07)

NICE, FRANCE. For more than 30 years, the olive- and palm-tree-laden grounds of the Victorine studios, just steps from the sea, have tempted a steady stream of producers and businessmen hoping to revive the place where classics like Trauffaut's *Day for Night*, and Hitchcock's *To Catch a Thief* were filmed.

But a very Mediterranean mix of local bureaucracy and political corruption has helped defeat them all, including Michael Douglas and his brother Joel, who took charge of the Victorine in the mid-1980's, only to leave a few years later with little to show for it.

Created in 1919, about the time the first studios in Hollywood were built, the Victorine has played host to the likes of Jeanne Moreau, Brigitte Bardot, Grace Kelly, Lauren Bacall, and David Niven. Director David Lean died during preproduction at the Victorine of his last, never-completed movie, *Nostramo*. The studio survived one world war and weathered three major fires. Yet those blows didn't compare to what Mr. Martin (former projectionist of the Victorine) calls the studio's "catastrophic years," 1975 to 1983, during the long reign of Nice's most notorious mayor, Jacques Médecin.

Mr. Médecin presided over such blatant corruption on the Côte d'Azur that writer Grahame Greene, then a resident of nearby Antibes, helped force a criminal investigation that ultimately resulted in Mr. Médecin's arrest and imprisonment.

When Rowan Atkinson was here (filming *Mr. Bean Takes a Holiday*), he wanted to hear all the stories about Truffaut, Hitchcock, and Grace Kelly. Standing on the upper patio of the Victorine's villa, built for a prince in the late 1800s and the headquarters for a succession of studio bosses, Mr. Martin reminisced about those glory days. He recalled sharing some



of Katharine Hepburn's chocolates during *The Madwoman of Chaillot*, drinking whiskey with Richard Burton in a bit part in *Day for Night* and watching workers construct a swimming pool that Elizabeth Taylor requested but never used.

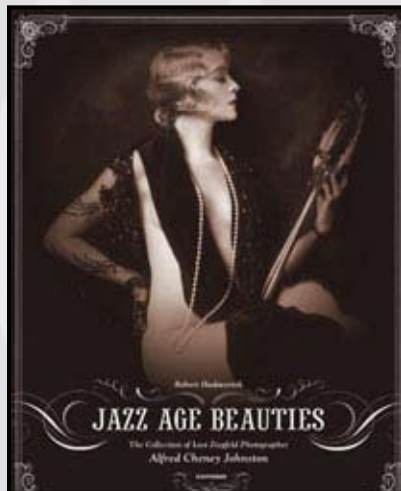
If that history isn't enough, some veterans of the Victorine trust in another savior: the ghost of **Rex Ingram**, an Irish-born Hollywood director who took over the Victorine in 1925 and shot several films there. "I heard about the ghost the first day I started here," said Patricia Douglas, a French film production coordinator and the former wife of Joel Douglas. "Everyone said it was a positive ghost, and" she added, "it doesn't want the Victorine to die." (<http://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F30913FC3C550C708DDDAC0894DF404482>)

TST BOOKCORNER

Jazz Age Beauties

Compiled here for the first time are more than 200 publicity stills and photos of some of America's first "It" girls in *Jazz Age Beauties: The Lost Collection of Ziegfeld Photographer Alfred Cheney Johnston*.

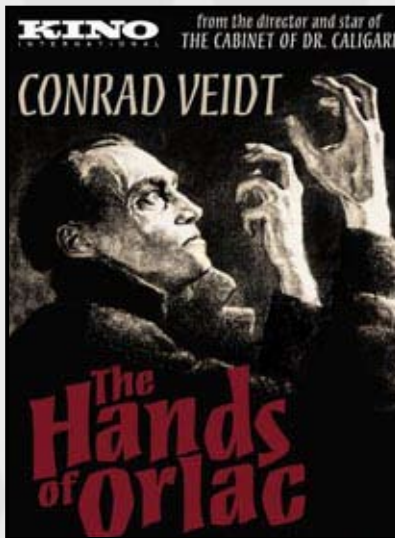
Louise Brooks, Hope Hampton, Constance Binney, and Helen Hays, are among the jazz age starlets that paved the way for the cacophony of Monroes and Madonnas to follow.



When rare and striking portraits of these women surfaced on the internet in 1995, author Robert Hudovernik began researching their source. What he discovered was the work of one of the first "star makers" that is identified most with the Ziegfeld Follies, Mr. Alfred Cheney Johnston.

Johnston, a member of New York's famous Algonquin Round Table, later fell out of the spotlight with the demise of the Ziegfeld revue. A sumptuous snapshot of an era, this book is also a look at the work of this "lost" photographer.

(www.alfredcheneyjohnston.com)



ON DVD

THE HANDS OF ORLAC

The Hands of Orlac (Orlacs Hände) is a deliciously twisted thriller that blends grand guignol thrills with the visual and performance styles of German Expressionism. Based on a novel by medical-horror novelist Maurice Renard, it charts the mental disintegration of a concert pianist (Conrad Veidt, *The Man Who Laughs*) whose hands are amputated after a train crash, and replaced with the hands of an executed murderer. When Orlac's father is murdered by the dead man's hands, Orlac begins a steady descent toward madness.

Produced in Vienna, the hotbed of psychoanalysis, *The Hands of Orlac* is writhing with sexual innuendo and Freudian imagery. This Kino edition was mastered in HD from a 35mm print restored by the F.W. Murnau Foundation, supplemented with additional footage from the Raymond Rohauer Collection. To be released **February 18, 2008**.

(www.amazon.com, www.kino.com)

GEORGE MELIES: FIRST WIZARD OF CINEMA

An unprecedented and definitive multi-disc collection, several years in the making of over 175 rare, rediscovered, and restored Melies films, plus a filmed tribute *Le Grand Melies* by Georges Franju, and essays by filmmaker Norman McLaren and film historian John Frazer.

This comprehensive survey of cinema's first wizard includes his debut film, *Partie de Cartes* and his final offering, *Voyage de la Famille Bourrichon*, plus materials from archives and collectors all over the world that will allow scholars and historians alike to re-evaluate the early years of cinema.



To be released **March 11, 2008**.

MOMENTS IN SILENCE

February 1, 1922 – Director William Desmond Taylor is murdered.

February 8, 1915 – Epoch Producing Corporation founded.

February 27, 1920 – Landmark German expressionism film, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* is released.

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