

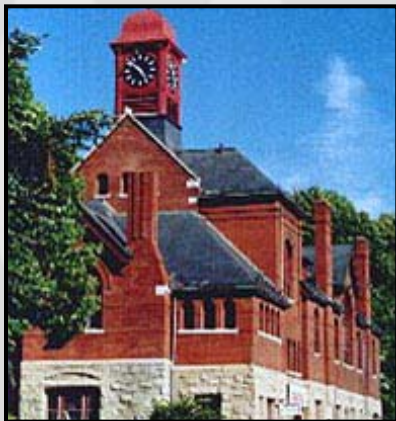
# THE SILENT TREATMENT

ALL THE NEWS FIT TO HEAR • VOLUME 02 • NUMBER 05 • SEP/OCT 2008

## WILTON TOWN HALL THEATRE DEBUTS SILENT SERIES

NEW HAMPSHIRE. The **Wilton Town Hall Theatre** in cooperation with the HippoPress, The Manchester Express and Looser Than Loose Vintage Entertainment will be running a **free** Silent Classic Film Series that includes live music accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis.

The Wilton Town Hall, built in 1886, was first used as a play house for traveling shows and vaudeville. It was then converted in 1912 to a silent film house. Today there are plans to run silent films on the **last Sunday of every month** at 4:30 PM unless otherwise announced. There is no charge to attend the show, but any donations will benefit **Mirthquake**, New England's largest vintage film festival. The series kicks off on **September 28th** with *Clash of the Wolves* (1925), an old west action picture that would appeal to the whole family, featuring the silent era's most famous canine star, Rin Tin Tin. ([www.wiltontownhalltheater.com](http://www.wiltontownhalltheater.com))



## HAROLD LLOYD CELEBRATED IN GHENT, BELGIUM

BELGIUM. For the 35th edition of the **Ghent Film Festival**, American silent film actor Harold Lloyd will be back under the spotlight, with an exhibition and a retrospective of newly restored films. The exhibition, co-organised by the Province of East Flanders, will be on view from **October 10th to December 21st 2008** at the Carmelite Friary – Provincial Centre of Art and Culture in Ghent. Sue Lloyd, the late actor's granddaughter and manager of his legacy, will be attending the exhibition opening.

Harold Lloyd ranks alongside Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton as one of the most popular film comedians of the silent film era. He is best known for his "Glasses Character", a hard-working, optimistic, all-American boy-next-door, complete with dark, oversized horn-rimmed glasses. Lloyd's films featured thrill sequences and daredevil physical feats, which he bravely performed himself.

Throughout the 1920s, Lloyd continued to shine at the box office, and in 1928 he was proclaimed the highest paid movie star of his time. Very often his films outgrossed the movies of Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin. In 1952, he received an Oscar for Lifetime Achievement.

The exhibition at the Carmelite Friary will have a wide variety of authentic photos and original pieces from the Harold Lloyd Estate, including scripts, sheet music, costumes and cameras. This is a rare chance to see so many different pieces from the Estate gathered together in a single exhibition.

During the 35th Ghent Film Festival running Oct 7th – 18th, 2008, the retrospective section **The Memory of Film** will be featuring four newly restored Harold Lloyd films: *Safety Last!* (1923), *Speedy* (1928), *Welcome Danger* (1929), and *Movie Crazy* (1932).

([www.filmfestival.be](http://www.filmfestival.be) / [www.caermer-sklooster.be](http://www.caermer-sklooster.be))



## VALESKA SURATT: VAMPIRE WOMAN

By Mike McCormick (excerpted)

An overnight sensation on Broadway in 1907, Suratt perfected vaudeville song and dance routines with husband Billy Gould and wrote a syndicated beauty and skin care column. With success came money. Oscar Hammerstein paid her \$2,500 a week and Valeska utilized the money to create a massive wardrobe, spending as much as \$25,000 each time she appeared in a different show.

In 1910, she built a spacious home at 1634 N. Ninth Street in Terre Haute, Indiana, where her parents resided and where she stored her wardrobe. Housekeeper Elizabeth Lauer reported that the attic and bedrooms at the residence were stacked to the ceiling with Valeska's theatrical finery. Valeska opened a boutique in the new Hotel Deming, managed by her sister Leah, then made her first silent motion picture, *The Immigrant* for Paramount Studios in 1915. It was such a success that Fox outbid Paramount for her services and gave her the chance to remain in New York.

Next to **Theda Bara** she was America's leading cinema "vamp," known as *The Vampire Woman* of the silent screen.

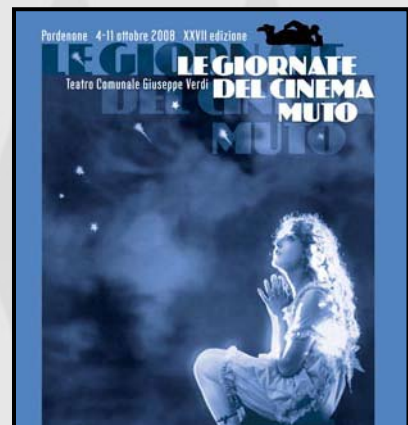
During World War I, Suratt made \$5,000 a week and gave \$500 of it to the American Red Cross. When she visited the Terre Haute home, crowds gathered around to catch a glimpse of this mysterious beauty.

Valeska's career went into a tailspin after she sued Cecil B. DeMille and others for stealing material from her script, *Mary Magdalene* for use in the movie, *King of Kings*. The case went to trial in 1930 but was settled. She starred at the Winter Garden in *The Frolics of 1929* before retiring. Valeska died July 2, 1962 in a Washington, D.C. retirement home. Unfortunately, none of her films are known to survive today and the historic residence at 1634 N. Ninth St. is scheduled to be razed. Remnants of the home may be purchased through the Union Hospital Service League. (Full article at [www.tribstar.com/archivesearch](http://www.tribstar.com/archivesearch))

## 27th PORDENONE SILENT FILM FESTIVAL

Events scheduled for the 27th edition of the Pordenone Silent Film Festival (October 4-11, 2008) include the opening musical event, one of Mary Pickford's finest films, *Sparrows* (1926; director William Beaudine). Festival sections will be dedicated to French comedy of the 1920s; *Hollywood on the Hudson*; the silent films of **W.C. Fields**; and the 12th and final section of the Giornate's monumental **Griffith Project**.

A central feature which we can guarantee will be a revelation to every festival habitué is a screening of the entire works of **Alexander Shiryayev** (1867-1941) a dancer, maitre de ballet and teacher at the Imperial Russian Ballet, whose quest to find means to record movement made him a film-maker of invention and charm and an animator of genius.



Individual restorations and rediscoveries of the year include (from the Netherlands Filmmuseum) a feature film and two fragments from works, long believed lost, starring **Sessue Hayakawa** and **King Vidor's** recently rediscovered *Bardelys the Magnificent*. (Full Festival info at [www.cinetecadelfriuli.org](http://www.cinetecadelfriuli.org))

## A DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS TRIO



### BIOGRAPHY

This deft amalgam of biography, film history, and analysis is a superb portrait of a true pioneer who was critically important to the creation of cinema as the defining art form of the twentieth century. **Douglas Fairbanks** (1883-1939) was one of the first film superstars, a screenwriter, a major independent producer during the early studio era, a cofounder of **United Artists**, a founder and the first president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and much more. The optimism, energy, and huge success during the 1920s of his best-remembered films *The Mark of Zorro*, *Robin Hood*, *The Thief of Bagdad*, and *The Black Pirate* made Fairbanks a popular hero throughout the world and showcased his talents as a creative producer whose work set the standard for excellence.

Author Jeffrey Vance, who had complete access to the star's personal and professional papers and scrapbooks, also incorporates 237 photographs, some unseen for more than seventy-five years. Extensively researched, engagingly written, and sumptuously designed, the book goes behind Fairbanks's public persona to thoroughly explore his art and his far-reaching influence. To be released October 15, 2008.

([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))

### GALA EXHIBITION

## THE GAUCHO (1927)

November 6, at 7:30p.m.  
Samuel Goldwyn Theater, LA

The movies' first action-adventure star, who created the iconic characterizations of *Zorro*, *Robin Hood* and *The Thief of Bagdad*, returns to the big screen in his penultimate silent film as *The Gaucho*.

In this feature, set high in the Andes Mountains, Fairbanks plays a reckless Argentine outlaw whose prowess with pistols, swords and bolas is matched by his ability to tango, scale buildings and seduce women.

*The Gaucho* was produced during a particularly troubled time in the star's life, and it replaces his virtuous screen persona with a darker, more complex characterization. Yet the film still delivers the cleverly staged stunts, charismatic flair and the stunning, detailed design that audiences have long associated with a Fairbanks film.

Featuring live musical quartet accompaniment, composed and conducted by Michael Mortilla plus film outtakes shot in 2-strip Technicolor.

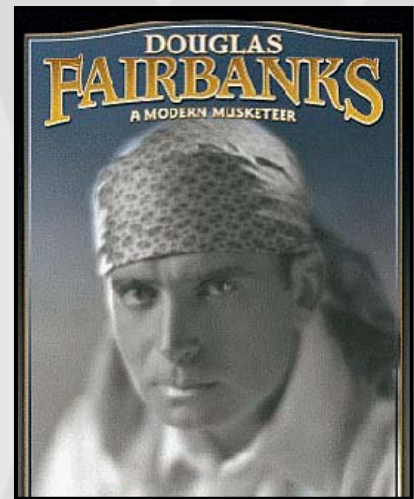


*The Gaucho* will be screened from a new print from the Museum of Modern Art.

(Info courtesy of AMPAS)

### DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS: A MODERN MUSKETEER

*Douglas Fairbanks: A Modern Musketeer* coincides with the release of the new biography and is a five-disc DVD collection that includes eleven of the delightful modern-dress comedies, satires, dream-fantasies and romances which made Fairbanks a popular hero, before he launched into the costume spectacles for which he is best remembered.



The set begins with four films produced in 1916 through Triangle-Fine Arts: *His Picture in the Papers*, *The Mystery of the Leaping Fish*, *Flirting With Fate* and *The Matrimaniac*. The collection continues with three films produced by Fairbanks for Artcraft / Famous Players-Lasky Corp. in 1917 and 1918: *Wild and Woolly* (1917), *Reaching for the Moon* (1917) and *A Modern Musketeer* (1918). Finally, four wonderful features that Fairbanks produced for United are included: *When the Clouds Roll By* (1919), *The Mollycoddle* (1920), *The Mark of Zorro* (1920) and *The Nut* (1921).

## VOX LUMIERE ROCKS PBS WITH "HUNCHBACK"

Vox Lumiere, an all-star cast of singers, dancers and musicians joins forces with new music, multi-media, light show and film to retell timeless movie masterpieces such as *Metropolis* and *Peter Pan*, are kicking off their PBS Television debut with the broadcast of the 1923 classic *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, starring **Lon Chaney** as the deformed, but noble bell ringer, Quasimodo.

*Vox Lumiere-The Hunchback of Notre Dame* is slated to air in December as part of the PBS National Pledge Drive. PBS will also be rolling out a CD and DVD of *Vox Lumiere-The Hunchback of Notre Dame* with a release date set for mid-October. (visit [www.voxlumiere.com](http://www.voxlumiere.com) for extended info)



### BOOK CORNER

#### **Max Factor: The Man Who Changed the Faces of the World**

By Fred E. Basten

Nice women never wore makeup. Even the word was taboo in polite society—until Max Factor entered the scene. Born in Poland in 1877, Factor worked as a beautician for the Russian royal family, the Romanovs.

In 1904 he fled to America, where he opened a cosmetics store in Los Angeles. Creating makeup originally for silent films, then the talkies, and ultimately color motion pictures, Factor designed looks for Katharine Hepburn, Rita Hayworth, Bette Davis, & many other beauties of the day.



He revolutionized the world of beauty by producing many firsts: false eyelashes, lip gloss, foundation, eye shadow, the eyebrow pencil, concealer, wand-applicator mascara, and water-resistant makeup. A true innovator, he also introduced the concept of color harmony and celebrity-endorsed cosmetics advertising. Max Factor was the father of modern makeup. This is his extraordinary story. ([www.arcadepub.com](http://www.arcadepub.com))

### ON DVD

#### **A THROW OF DICE**

The 1929 Silent Extravaganza from India with a new orchestral score by Nitin Sawhney. A lavish silent super-production comprising 10,000 extras, a thousand horses, and scores of elephants, *A Throw of Dice* is the climax of German film pioneer Franz Osten's richly cinematic so-

jour in India. Inspired by the ancient Sanskrit epic poem The Mahabharata, royal cousins and rulers of adjoining kingdoms King Sohat (Producer and Star Himansu Rai) and King Rajit (Charu Roy) share a reckless passion for gambling, the perilous jungle tiger hunt, and the beautiful maiden Sunita (Seeta Devi). After a tiger nearly claims Rajit's life, Sunita nurses the handsome young king back to health and becomes his bride. Knowing that the only thing stronger than love is Rajit's heart is a compulsive fascination with games of chance, jealous Sohat challenges his cousin to a winner-takes-all contest where the stakes are freedom, marriage, and life itself. ([www.kino.com](http://www.kino.com))



### MOMENTS IN SILENCE

**October 1, 1896** – Pathe Freres Film Company is founded.

**October 31, 1914** – D.W. Griffith finishes filming on *Birth of a Nation*.

**November 9, 1918** – Mary Pickford signs three picture deal with First National.

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