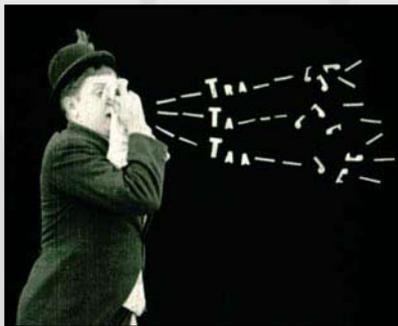


THE SILENT TREATMENT

ALL THE NEWS FIT TO HEAR • VOLUME 02 • NUMBER 06 • NOV/DEC 2008

DFI DISCOVERS "HIS MUSICAL SNEEZE"

DENMARK. Once presumed lost, the silent film comedy *His Musical Sneeze* was discovered at the **Danish Film Institute** in the summer of 2008. The American production features venerable funny man Lloyd Hamilton and the ill-fated Virginia Rappe as its lead players. A review found in an issue of the **Moving Picture World** from 1919 considered this picture to be "a breezy laughable knockabout comic in-two reels directed by Jack White."



The short was registered under its Danish release title and it was not until recently that the original title was confirmed. The film found is a fragment lasting for approximately 15 minutes, which is about 75% of the original length. As far as the DFI knows, the film does not exist in any other archive, and preservation will be undertaken as soon as possible. No titles or credits exist in the fragment, but several important indications point to its identification as being *His Musical Sneeze*. (Details available at www.dfi.dk)



REMEMBERING ANITA PAGE

September 6th, 2008 marked the passing of one of the oldest surviving film stars from the silent era, the lovely **Ms. Anita Page**. Anita first broke into Hollywood in 1928 at the age of 18, when she landed a plum role alongside leading lady **Joan Crawford** in the MGM production of *Our Dancing Daughters*. Following the popularity of *Daughters*, Page scored a co-starring role in the first all-talking musical feature *The Broadway Melody* that went on to win the 1928/1929 Academy Award for Best Picture. Anita later wed the films composer, Nacio Herb Brown, in 1934, but the union was annulled the following year.

Throughout her career, Page starred alongside the likes of Lon Chaney, Walter Huston, Clark Gable, and silent comedy legend Buster Keaton, with whom she appeared in the 1930's *Free and Easy* and

1931's *Sidewalks of New York*. In 1936, Page married second husband Herschel House six weeks after they met, and took a near 30-year break from acting to become a doting housewife to the U.S. Navy officer.

Three years following the death of her husband in 1991, Anita found herself back in the acting chair with a part in a thriller titled *Sunset After Dark* and continued to perform intermittently all the way up to the recently completed horror picture *Frankenstein Rising* that is expected to release late this year.

In recognition of Anita's recent departure, **Turner Classic Movies** has devoted a block of their broadcast schedule on Tuesday, **December 2nd** to pictures featuring Ms. Page in leading or co-starring roles. Check the TCM website for further details. (sources www.wenn.com, www.tcm.com)

A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Magic Lantern Show
Saturday, December 6th at 2:00 PM



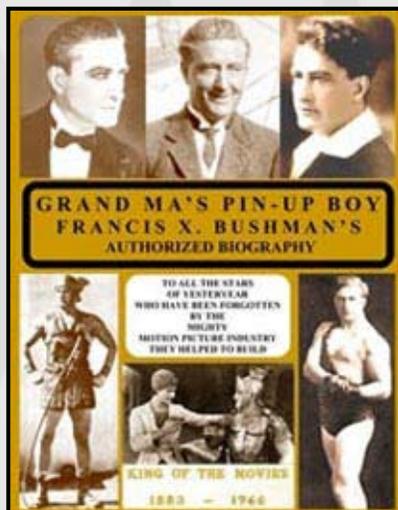
TEXAS. The McKinney Parks and Recreation proudly presents a unique opportunity to travel back in time with the boisterous fun of America's only Victorian magic-lantern show. An authentic 1890s visual extravaganza projected on a full-sized

screen - a kind of show that led us to the movies! Christmas stories like *Scrooge*, *The Little Match Girl*, and *The Night Before Christmas*, with some animated comedy and songs – are all dramatized on screen by a live showman and singer/pianist.

(www.mckinneyperformingartscenter.org)

GRANDMA'S PIN-UP BOY: *Francis X. Bushman's* *Bio Manuscript Located*

Found in a box of aged, dusty and molded radio-plays, screenplays, manuscripts and various other project drafts, was a manuscript with a unique dedication: “*To all the stars of yesteryear who have been forgotten by the mighty motion picture industry they helped to build.*”



This was no mere manuscript or screenplay; it was the “*as told to*” authorized biography of the first movie star of Hollywood, **Francis X. Bushman**. Written, then abandoned in 1948 by Maurice Zimm (notably

the author and creator of *Creature from the Black Lagoon*), the book is a chronicle of Bushman looking back at his life at the age of 65.

Bushman provides keen insight and a historical perspective into crucial events, the key players, and behind the scenes dramas that shaped Hollywood. Marketed as the *Handsomest Man in the World*, along with **Beverly Bayne** (his co-star and 2nd wife), were the *Age of the Silver Screen's* first romantic couple. According to Variety magazine, one of the Top 5 of the highest grossing films of Silent Film Era was *Ben-Hur* in which Bushman played Mes-sala, a leading role.

Bushman was the maverick of his era, blazing a trail for all of those who came after him, living out the dreams and ambitions of a country as it entered into the modern era. His first hand account illuminates and clarifies many Hollywood myths. (Contact info@2waymirrormedia.com for inquiries)

Silent Movie Mondays Return to The Paramount Theatre: New Series "Oh The Horror!"

SEATTLE, WA. Trader Joe's Silent Movie Mondays return this January to **The Paramount Theatre**, Mondays at **7:00 p.m.** The series features all classic horror silent films and is accompanied live by Dennis James on the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ. Patrons will also be able to enjoy a short commentary about these classic treasures led by silent film experts prior to each film.

January 5, 2009: *The Hunchback*

of Notre Dame (1923). Set in the city of Paris is a serious, tragic production on the life of Quasimodo, the deformed bell-ringer of the famous Notre Dame Cathedral.

January 12, 2009: *The Magician*, (1926). Loosely based on the 1908 novel by Somerset Maugham, the great German actor Paul Wegener stars as Doctor Haddo, a self-styled sorcerer who has unearthed an ancient document revealing the formula for creating artificial life.



January 19, 2009: *The Bells* (1926): Lionel Barrymore plays a merchant who murders a Jewish entrepreneur and appropriates the dead man's fortune. Though no evidence exists to convict him, Barrymore cannot escape his own conscience due to the intervention of a mentalist.

January 26, 2009: *The Golem* (1920): In medieval Prague, Rabbi Loew (Albert Steinruck), a master of magic, activates the Golem, a monstrous clay figure, to help save his congregation.

Tickets for the entire Silent Monday Series are available via www.theparamount.com, by phone at 206-292-ARTS (2787), or at The Paramount and Moore Theatre Box Offices and at Ticketmaster outlets.

VALENTINO: ONLY A MAN

UNITED KINGDOM. A creative father and son have teamed up to pen a new musical about a screen legend – and it is due to hit the stage in the New Year. David Kane and son Ricky worked together for the first time to help put together *Valentino: Only A Man*, about the life of silver screen idol **Rudolph Valentino**.



David, of Raphael Close, Black Dam, Basingstoke, said his writing partner Keith Powell, from Lightwater, in Surrey, had the idea for the musical and, when they collaborated, the songs began to flow. The 54-year-old, who formed country rock band Kane & Co and has written a children's rock musical, said: "I did the research, Keith and I wrote the songs and lyrics, and then Ricky wrote the script around the songs – which is a bit of a strange way of doing it, but it worked quite well. Ricky is a very talented writer and very easygoing."

The production was initially funded by David and Keith and, with the support of business associates, they have secured enough finance to get the show up and running for a six-week tour starting at **The Camberley Theatre**, on **January 27th**, when it should finance itself.

The musical follows Valentino's arrival in New York, where he becomes a dancer until he is discovered by Hollywood. After a short career, the heart-throb – who famously starred in *The Sheik* – was mourned by thousands of female fans when he died in 1926 from a ruptured ulcer. David said: "I have done musicals before but this fires me up more than the others. It's bittersweet and the songs range from sad ballads to upbeat, Latin American dance numbers." (info excerpted from www.basingstokegazette.co.uk and www.camberleytheatre.biz)

THE PHARAOH'S WIFE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

MADISON. The Cinematheque at the University of Wisconsin is excited to present *Treasures from the Munich Filmmuseum*, which will showcase a couple of the Museum's prize holdings. Established in 1963, the Munich Filmmuseum has a rich library of German silent films, and on **Saturday, December 6th at 7:30 pm** we will be screening *The Pharaoh's Wife (Das Weib des Pharaos)* from 1922, directed by Ernst Lubitsch with cast members Emil Jannings, Harry Liedtke, and Dagny Servaes.

One of the last films Lubitsch made in Germany, *The Pharaoh's Wife* is European spectacular filmmaking at its best: Emil Jannings as Pharaoh lords over monumental sets built in the legendary Lubitsch Film City, and the 25,000 extras who inhabit them. Ancient Egypt has never looked so good as in this recent 35mm restoration by the Munich Filmmuseum, presented by archivist Stefan Dröbler with live musical accompaniment. Admission is **free** and The Cinematheque is located at 4070 Vilas Hall. (Further info at <http://cinema.wisc.edu>)

NEW CALENDER OF "LOST FILMS"

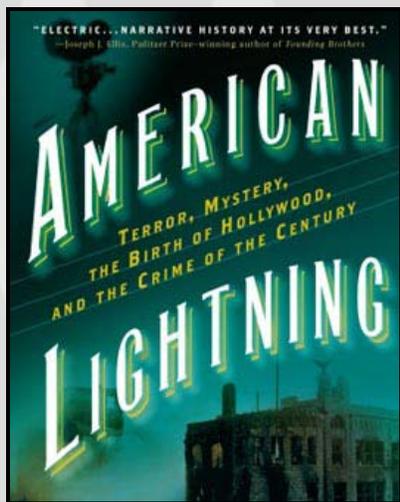


The 2009 **Silent Film Benefit Calendars** are now available for purchase! This year's theme is *lost films*, and will include production stills from silent features ranging from *The Cabaret Girl* to *Legion of the Condemned*, & stars ranging from **Clara Bow** to **Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.** The calendar also lists the silent film stars & directors born on each day, as well as important movie premieres.

All proceeds (after printing expenses) go to silent film preservation. Last year's funds (around \$1500) contributed to the (much larger) expenses required to preserve and restore *Bardelys the Magnificent* to a viewable format.

The calendar is the same price as last year -- \$15 for the first, \$12 for additional calendars in each order, plus first class shipping rates. For details on how to order the calendars, visit www.mont-alto.com and click on the Calendar link.

BOOK CORNER



AMERICAN LIGHTNING

By Howard Blum

On the morning of October 1, 1910, the walls of the Los Angeles Times Building buckled as a thunderous detonation sent men, machinery, and mortar rocketing into the night air. When at last the wreckage had been sifted and the hospital triage units consulted, twenty-one people were declared dead and dozens more injured.

With smoke still wafting up from the charred ruins, the city's mayor reacts with undisguised excitement when he learns of the arrival, only that morning, of America's greatest detective, William J. Burns, a former Secret Service man who has been likened to Sherlock Holmes.

Through the work of brilliant forensic sleuthing, the great investigator finally identifies the men he believes are responsible for so much destruction. Burns accuses the men—labor activists with an apparent grudge against the L.A. Times's fiercely anti-union owner—of not just one heinous deed but of being part of a terror wave involving hundreds of bombings.

While preparation is laid for America's highest profile trial ever—two other notable figures are swept into the drama: industry-shaping filmmaker **D. W. Griffith**, who perceives in these events the possibility of great art and who will go on to alchemize his observations into the landmark film *The Birth of a Nation*; and crusading lawyer Clarence Darrow, committed to lend his eloquence to the defendants, though he will be driven to thoughts of suicide before events have fully played out. (www.randomhouse.com)

ON DVD

MURNAU, BORZAGE, AND FOX

Just in time for the holidays! This long anticipated box set of twelve feature films by directors F.W. Murnau and Frank Borzage will be made available for purchase on **December 9, 2008**. Among the contents of the box are two F.W. Murnau

films, ten films by Frank Borzage, a newly produced feature length documentary *Murnau, Borzage & Fox* by John Cork, plus two coffee table books of photographs from the films in the collection.



Many of the titles included in this set from the silent and early sound era have long been unavailable. Highlights include *Lazybones* from 1925 with a new score by Tim Curran, the Movietone version and the European silent version of *Sunrise* from 1927, reconstruction featurettes on *The River* from 1929, and *Lucky Star* (1929) and *City Girl* (1930) that also includes new compositions by Christopher Caliendo.

(Complete list of titles at www.foxclassics.com)

MOMENTS IN SILENCE

November 21, 1894 – Mutoscope patent is filed.

December 6, 1928 – *Fire breaks out at UFA Studios in Berlin.*

January 10, 1924 – Columbia Pictures is founded

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