

# THE SILENT TREATMENT

ALL THE NEWS FIT TO HEAR • VOLUME 03 • NUMBER 01 • JAN/FEB 2009



## STUMMFILMMUSIKTAGE

January 24th, 2009 - Erlangen, Germany

The annual celebration of silent film festivities will be running all day long at the magnificent Markgrafentheater in Erlangen on Saturday, **January 24th**. The four hundred seat venue carries the distinction of being noted as Germany's oldest operating baroque theater that originally opened its doors back in 1719. Combining old world ambience with first rate projection and acoustics, make a trip to this location a unique and memorable experience.

The organizers have chosen the theme of the one day festival to be "There's No Business Like Show-business" beginning with *Filmens Helte* (Film Heroes) from 1928 which will carry the audience members onto a Danish film set; the show continues on with Charlie Chaplin's delightful comedy *The Circus* where Chaplin's tramp character plays a handyman for a traveling circus. The evening will close out with the

powerful and beautifully photographed drama, *Variété*, directed by E.A. Dupont from 1925, one of Germany's finest silent productions. All pictures will have live musical accompaniment to supplement the films, including piano, violin, and a full orchestral score that Charlie Chaplin composed for *The Circus*. (Please visit [www.stummfilmmusiktage.de](http://www.stummfilmmusiktage.de) for schedule and ticket information)

### EARLY POLA NEGRI FILM FOUND

A film starring Pola Negri has been discovered at the Centro Sperimentale Film Archives in Rome by Marek & Malgorzata Hendrykowski, a Polish husband & wife research team from Poznan University. The film, dating from the 1910s, is a detective story set in Warsaw. Made by

the Warsaw-based Sfinks Producers, the copy has Italian subtitles and is said to be in good condition. A report on the discovery comes from the Polish Institute in Rome, which says that more details are to be announced soon.

Pola Negri was born Apolonia Chalupiec in 1894 in Lipno, central Poland, into a poor family. In 1913 she made her stage debut and a year later appeared in her first film. Soon she was a top star in Poland, prompting the German director Max Reinhardt to invite her to act in the Berlin theatres as well as in films. Flooded with contract offers from Hollywood, she moved to America in 1923, becoming Hollywood's first imported star.



Her exotic, mysterious, passionate qualities caught on with American audiences. She also attracted a great deal of publicity for her offscreen romances and her long-term feud with rival Gloria Swanson. From 1927-31 she was married to a Russian prince; she divorced him because he mismanaged her investments during

the stock market crash. She became popular again in Germany after starring in several films there. She settled on the French Riviera, then returned to the U.S. in 1941, ten years later becoming a U.S. citizen. She died in San Antonio in 1987, at the age of 93. (Excerpted from [www.polskieradio.pl/thenews/culture/?id=98050](http://www.polskieradio.pl/thenews/culture/?id=98050))

## 'BARDLEYS' TO MAKE U.S. PREMIERE AT KSFF



The 13th annual **Kansas Silent Film Festival** will be held on **February 27th and 28th**, 2009 and plays host to the U.S.A. Premiere of a restored 'lost' feature film and the Kansas Premiere of a new documentary on silent film star, Mary Pickford. All programs are **free** and open to the public.

*Bardleys The Magnificent*, was a previously lost MGM feature film from 1926 starring John Gilbert in a swashbuckling romantic adventure. *Bardleys* will be introduced by film

restoration expert David Shepard, and the Mont Alto Orchestra will accompany the picture with a newly commissioned score. A new documentary entitled *Mary Pickford: The Muse of the Movies* will be a Kansas premiere that celebrates the life and work of the greatest leading lady of silent films. Producer/Director Nicholas Eliopoulos will be introducing his documentary and fielding questions from the audience. The doc will be preceded by the 1919 feature, *The Poor Little Rich Girl*, which is one of Mary Pickford's greatest successes.

Additional screenings taking place during the festival include the Buster Keaton comedy *Go West*, a thrilling tale of *The Great K&A Robbery* starring western hero Tom Mix, and the sultry, seductive presentation of *Cobra* featuring dazzling screen couple Rudolph Valentino and Nita Naldi. Sponsored by Washburn University, this event will take place at White Concert Hall on campus. For more current information, check out [www.kssilentfilmfest.org](http://www.kssilentfilmfest.org) and if you would like to volunteer, please contact the Volunteer Coordinators – Jane Bartholomew and Phil Figgs.

## LAGERFELD'S TRIBUTE TO COCO CHANEL

A glamorous, big-budget short film of the silent variety titled *Paris Moscow* premiered in early December 2008 ahead of the reveal of Karl Lagerfeld's latest fashion collection. Personally directed by the fashion ti-

tan of Chanel couture, the 10 minute piece pays homage to the founder's early years in a blossoming industry.

The designer gathered some familiar members of his entourage, including model Brad Koenig and his bodyguard/private secretary Sébastien Jondeau, along with model Edita Vilkeviciute, as the beguiling young Coco from 1913, when the legendary designer first set up shop.

The second half of the film takes place in 1923, when Chanel was already established, and is interspersed with newsreel images from the First World War. The plot involves a fascinating cast of characters, many tied to Russia, including Chanel's lover the Grand Duke Dmitri Pavlovich, from whom she borrowed the pea jacket and pelisse, giving them a feminine touch.



Lagerfeld's mini movie took two days to shoot in a studio on the outskirts of Paris, and was "made like a Hollywood production," the designer says. "I had every image in my head." The fashion collection that followed the picture incorporated elements of imperial Russia and Russian folklore. (Info excerpted from [www.wwd.com/fashion-news](http://www.wwd.com/fashion-news))

**NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART  
Presents  
Emile Cohl, Animator**

WASHINGTON, D.C. The National Gallery of Art presents an ongoing program of classic cinema, documentary, avant-garde, and area premieres occurring each weekend in the East Building Auditorium, 4th Street at Constitution Avenue NW. Programs are **free of charge** but seating is on a first-come, first-seated basis. Doors open approximately 30 minutes before each show. Programs are subject to change.



On Saturday, **February 7th**, 2009 at 2:00 PM, a rare assemblage of line drawing animations from the Gaumont Pathé Archives of caricaturist Émile Cohl's earliest moving images will be present; including his pioneering effort *Fantasmagorie* (1908) and *Le Cauchemar du Fantoche* (1908)—plus others with the whimsical Fantoche, the prototype for many later cartoon characters. Bernard Génin, author of *Émile Cohl, the Inventor of the Animated Film* (2008), introduces the program (running approximately 85 minutes). (Visit [www.nga.gov/programs/film/](http://www.nga.gov/programs/film/) for further info)



**GEH TO PRESERVE  
SILENT WESTERNS**

In the fall of 2008, The George Eastman House in Rochester, NY was one of 26 archives, museums, and universities awarded grant money to preserve three silent pictures in their collection thanks to **The National Film Preservation Foundation**. Since starting operations in 1997, the NFPF has provided film preservation support to 187 institutions in 46 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, to save historically and culturally significant American films not preserved by commercial interests.

Two of the three pictures designated grant money include *Roaring Rails*, a melodrama from 1924 starring Harry Carey as railroad engineer Bill Benson who is discharged from service when his neglectful behavior causes a wreck. The second picture is *Treat 'Em Rough* (released in 1919) with Tom Mix as daredevil cowboy Ned Ferguson who is hired to hunt down Cattle Rustlers. Both pictures contained foreign language intertitles and are undergoing translation back into English by GEH Selznick School students or its alumni and will be re-

stored at the Haghefilm laboratory in Amsterdam. (Extra info and image courtesy GEH, plus excerpts from [www.filmpreservation.org](http://www.filmpreservation.org) and the AFI online catalog)

**BOOK CORNER**

**JOSEPH P. KENNEDY  
PRESENTS**

This is the extraordinary story, told for the first time, of Joseph P. Kennedy's remarkable reign in Hollywood, in which he ran three movie studios simultaneously, led the revolution in sound pictures—and made the fortune that became the foundation of his empire.

Between 1926 and 1930, Kennedy used his talents to position himself as a Hollywood leader. He ran Film Booking Offices (FBO), was brought in to run Pathé and the Keith-Albee-Orpheum theaters, and became the chairman of their boards. Within months, he was asked to head First National film company. By 1928, Kennedy was running three studios at once.



Cari Beauchamp writes about the genius behind Kennedy's profiteering and his importance in changing the way Hollywood conducted business. As one of the first nonfamily members to be given access to Kennedy's personal papers, Beauchamp has dug through the maze of deals and the files of memos and notes, to tell in full how he made it all happen.

Beauchamp tells for the first time the full story of Kennedy's affair with the feisty Gloria Swanson and about the Hollywood titans surrounding him: William Randolph Hearst . . . Cecil B. De Mille . . . David Sarnoff, who, with Kennedy, masterminded the deal that resulted in the founding of RKO that made Kennedy millions.

A fascinating tale of business genius and personal greed that brings to light not only the way Joseph P. Kennedy made his fortune, but how he forever changed the business of movie-making. ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com))

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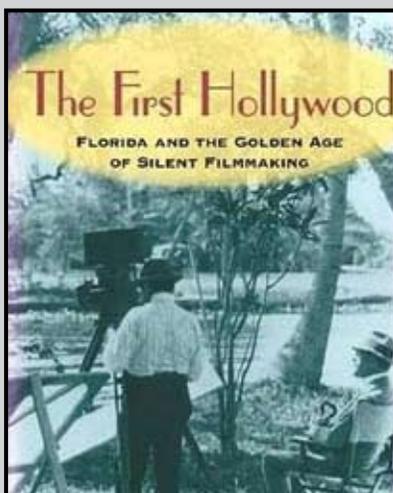
### **THE FIRST HOLLYWOOD: FLORIDA AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF SILENT FILMMAKING**

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By Shawn C. Bean

There wasn't always just one Tinseltown. Jacksonville, Florida, was the king of the infant film industry. Devastated by fire in 1901, rebuilt in a wide variety of architectural styles, sharing the same geographic and meteorological DNA as southern California, the city was an ideal location for northern film production companies looking to relocate.

In 1908, New York-based Kalem Studios sent its first crew to Jacksonville. By 1914, fifteen major companies--including Fox and Metro Pictures--had set up shop there. Oliver Hardy, D. W. Griffith, Mary Pickford, and the Barrymores all made movies in the Florida sunshine. In total, nearly 300 films, including the first Technicolor picture ever made, were completed in Jacksonville by 1928.



But the city couldn't escape its past. Even as upstart Hollywood boosters sought to discredit Jacksonville, the latter imploded from a combination of political upheaval, simmering racial tensions, disease, and World War I. ([www.upf.com/book](http://www.upf.com/book))

### **ON DVD**

### **GRIFFITH MASTERWORKS VOLUME 2**

Kino International is proud to announce the release of *D. W. GRIFFITH MASTERWORKS 2*, comprised of five newly restored Griffith features, a rare Biograph short and

the DVD release of Kevin Brownlow and David Gill's three-part documentary *D.W. Griffith: Father of Film* (1993).

Widely regarded as the father of American film, David Wark Griffith (1875-1948) revolutionized the language of cinema and transformed a five-cent novelty into an art form. His historical epics and Victorian melodramas achieved new heights of emotional richness, created unbearable dramatic tension, and sparked controversies that continue to rage, nearly a century later.

The titles included in this special edition set are: *The Avenging Conscience* (1914) along with the short subject *Edgar Allen Poe* (1909), *Way Down East* (1920), *Sally of the Sawdust* (1925), and the only two talkie pictures Griffith ever directed, *Abraham Lincoln* (1930) and *The Struggle* (1931). ([www.kino.com](http://www.kino.com))

### **MOMENTS IN SILENCE**

**February 4, 1924** – Comedian Harry Langdon makes screen debut in *Picking Peaches*.

**February 25, 1916** – The first "Krazy Kat" cartoon is shown.

**March 13, 1923** – Director Erich Von Stroheim begins filming *Greed*.

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