

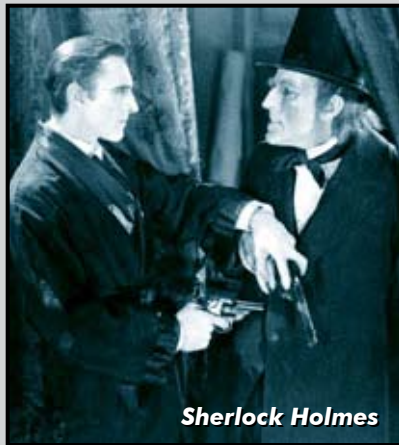
THE SILENT TREATMENT

ALL THE NEWS FIT TO HEAR • VOLUME 06 • NUMBER 03 • MAY/JUNE 2012

SILENT MOVIES ON DEMAND

Tugg intros the Social Movie Theatre

Choose the films that play at your local theater. That is mission of **Tugg Inc.**, a collective action web-platform that allows individuals to choose the films that play in their local theaters. Launching in late February 2012, this fledging organization is already working with both independent art houses and multiplexes nationwide such as AMC Theaters, Alamo Draft-house Cinema, Cinemark Theaters, and Regal Cinemas to stage individually curated evenings showcasing Tugg's growing library of hundreds of studio, independent, foreign, and silent pictures.



Sherlock Holmes

Tugg co-founders Nicolas Gonda, CEO, and Pablo Gonzalez, COO, have created an innovative way for moviegoers to experience the films of their choice in a theatrical setting. Utilizing crowd-sourcing technology, individuals are enabled to select a film, screening time, and nearby theater, and then spread the word to their immediate and online community. Once a necessary amount of people commit to attending, the event will

be confirmed, and Tugg will reserve the theater, manage ticketing and ensure delivery of the film; allowing the audience to sit back and enjoy the show.

Through alliances with its exhibitors, Tugg provides audiences with access to a network of high-quality theatrical venues and has the capability to arrange for all types of media—both 35mm and DCP alike. Be it current or classic, mainstream or independent, Tugg reaffirms the importance and value of the theatergoing experience by placing the power of theatrical programming in the hands of the audience.

Paying close attention to Tugg's library of silent cinema holdings, there are currently 17 different feature length titles available; from beloved essentials such as *Battleship Potemkin* (1925) and *Modern Times* (1936) to more obscure titles like *The Hands of Orlac* (1924) and *Sherlock Holmes* (1922). (www.tugg.com)



French Stewart

STONEFACE: The Rise & Fall of Buster Keaton

By Dan Bacalzo (04/30/12)

LOS ANGELES. French Stewart will star in Vanessa Claire Stewart's world premiere play, *Stoneface: The Rise And Fall And Rise of Buster Keaton*, to be presented at the **Sacred Fools Theater**, May 25th -June 30th. Jaime Robledo will direct.

Stewart will play the Buster Keaton we never knew: over-the-hill, alcoholic, and struggling to regain the magic that once made him one of the greatest stars of Hollywood and the silent film era. The once great silent film legend Buster Keaton awakens in a dry-out clinic, wearing a straightjacket, with a nurse he doesn't remember marrying. It is then he realizes that his biggest success might be overcoming the fact that he no longer is one.

The cast will also feature Joe Fria as Young Buster, Scott Leggett as Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle, Erin Parks as Mae Scriven, Tegan Ashton Cohan as Natalie Talmadge, Rena Strober

as Eleanor Norris / Norma Talmadge, Jake Broder as Joseph Schenk, Conor Duffy as Edward Sedgwick, Pat Towne as Louis B. Mayer, and Guy Picot as Charlie Chaplin.

Stewart is best known for six seasons on the NBC Emmy-nominated hit **3rd Rock From The Sun**. He most recently appeared at Sacred Fools in the award-winning production of **Watson** and **Justin Tanner's Voice Lessons**. In 2011, Stewart received three Ovation Award nominations for his work in both plays, and an L.A. Weekly Award nomination for **Watson**. The production will feature music by Ryan Johnson, choreography by Natasha Norman, stunt choreography by Andrew Amani, and projection design by Ben Rock & Anthony Backman. (www.theatermania.com, www.sacredfools.org)

Mary Pickford: The Miniature Golf Craze

By Mary Mallory (excerpted article, 04/09/12)

The 1920s saw a series of fads sweep the nation as the American populace searched out the new and exciting after experiencing hardship and deprivation during World War I and a great recession in the early 1920s. Mah Jongg, Ouija Boards, Crossword Puzzles, and the Charleston were a few of the newest things introduced to the American public in the middle of the decade, soon followed by miniature golf. This pee-wee golf boom exploded in the late 1920s, with celebrities joining the bandwagon.

The Los Angeles Times on June 22, 1930 called Mrs. Garnett Carter of Chattanooga, Tennessee the initiator of the mini-golf hysteria. She and her husband owned the Fairyland Inn on Lookout Mountain, which kept them busy and away from playing golf. In 1926, she laid out two small holes



Wilshire Links dedication ceremonies

with little tees and putting greens so that she could practice putting, with the second hole more difficult as it possessed an undulating green.

Golf itself was riding a wave of popularity with Bobby Jones having won the golf Grand Slam a few years before, but miniature golf was affordable for the middle classes and something the entire family could partake in. Miniature courses exploded around Los Angeles. Many stayed open seven days a week to all hours of the morning with bright lights in operation. The August 3, 1930 Los Angeles Times commissioned a report stating that there were more than 400 courses in Los Angeles County at that time, with more than 100 under construction.

Silent film superstar Mary Pickford jumped into the craze, buying land at Wilshire Blvd. and La Cienega Blvd. in Beverly Hills on which to build an elaborate course, reportedly for \$50,000. At the dedication ceremonies for the opening of the Wilshire Links, a number of celebrities attended, including Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks.

While miniature golf exploded in popularity for a couple of years, by 1932, interest greatly faded away; it

was not until the 1950s that the sport came back into style. (Full article at <http://ladailymirror.com/2012/04/09/mary-mallory-hollywood-heights-mary-pickford-and-miniature-golf/#more-7931>)

SILENTS UNDER THE STARS 25th Anniversary

In 1927, Paramount Pictures purchased 2,700 acres of land for use as a "movie ranch" in Augora Hills, California. After World War II the studio sold the property and parcels were turned over to private investors. In 1952 Bill Hertz bought 326 acres that still bear the Paramount name and turned the land into a western town.



Paramount Ranch

The National Park Service purchased the land in 1980, revitalizing the old movie ranch and every sum-

mer for the past 25 years, **The Silent Society** has hosted their “Silents Under the Stars” film series entertaining hundreds of early cinema fans with comedies, dramas, and delightful short subject presentations.

In honor of the studio’s Centennial year, the 25th Anniversary of the “Silents Under the Stars” will showcase three of Paramount’s finest productions from that golden era beginning July 22nd with *Mantrap* (1926). The sparkling Clara Bow stars as a flirtatious manicurist who juggles a husband, an aviator, and a divorce attorney during a camping trip in the Canadian woods.



The series continues August 5th with *For Heaven’s Sake* (1926) where comedian Harold Lloyd plays a young, debonair millionaire who donates money toward a downtown mission in an effort to win the evangelist’s daughter. Closing out the summer series on August 19th is *A Woman of the World* (1925) featuring Pola Negri as Countess Elnora who finds her reputation questioned when she leaves her European home to visit her cousin in a small Midwestern town. All films begin at sunset and feature live musical ac-

companiment by Michael Mortilla. (www.hollywoodheritage.org)

BOOK CORNER

THE CHAPERONE

By Laura Moriarty

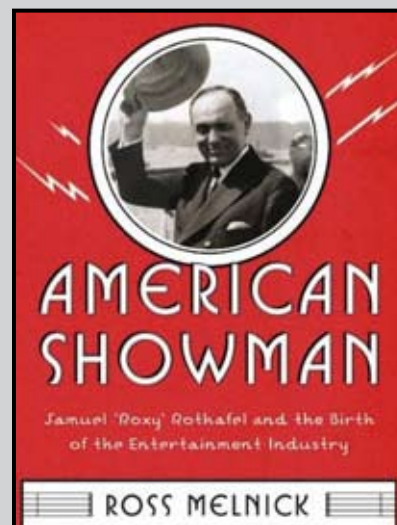
A captivating novel about the woman who chaperoned an irreverent Louise Brooks to New York City in 1922, and the summer that would change them both. Only a few years before becoming a famous actress and an icon for her generation, a fifteen-year-old Louise Brooks leaves Wichita to make it big in New York. Much to her annoyance, she is accompanied by a 36-year-old chaperone who is neither mother nor friend.

Cora Carlisle is a complicated but traditional woman with her own reasons for making the trip. She has no idea what she’s in for. Young Louise, already stunningly beautiful and sporting her famous blunt bangs and black bob, is known for her arrogance and her lack of respect for convention. Ultimately, the five weeks they spend together will change their lives forever.



For Cora, New York holds the promise of discovery that might prove an answer to the question at

the center of her being, and even as she does her best to watch over Louise in a strange and bustling city, she embarks on her own mission. And while what she finds isn’t what she anticipated, it liberates her in a way she could not have imagined. Over the course of the summer, Cora’s eyes are opened to the promise of the twentieth century and a new understanding of the possibilities for being fully alive. (www.lauramoriarty.net)



AMERICAN SHOWMAN: Samuel "Roxy" Rothafel and the Birth of the Entertainment Industry 1908-1935

By Ross Melnick

Samuel “Roxy” Rothafel (1882--1936) built an influential and prolific career as film exhibitor, stage producer, radio broadcaster, musical arranger, theater manager, war propagandist, and international celebrity. He helped engineer the integration of film, music, and live performance in silent film exhibition; scored early Fox Movietone films such as *Sunrise* (1927); pioneered the convergence of film, broadcasting, and music publishing and recording in the 1920s; and helped movies become the dominant form of mass entertainment be-

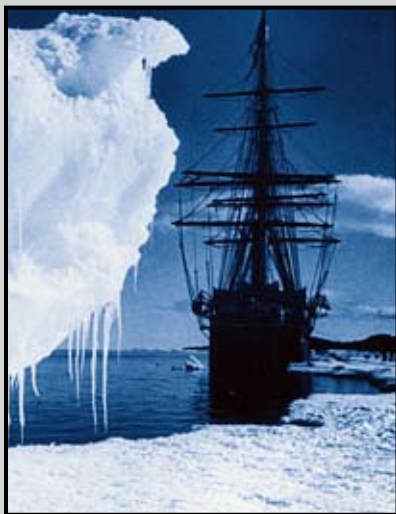
tween the world wars.

The first book devoted to Rothafel's multifaceted career, **American Showman** examines his role as the key purveyor of a new film exhibition aesthetic that appropriated legitimate theater, opera, ballet, and classical music to attract multi-class audiences. Roxy scored motion pictures, produced enormous stage shows, managed many of New York's most important movie houses, directed and/or edited propaganda films for the American war effort, produced short and feature-length films, exhibited foreign, documentary, independent, and avant-garde motion pictures, and expanded the conception of mainstream, commercial cinema. (<http://cup.columbia.edu/>)

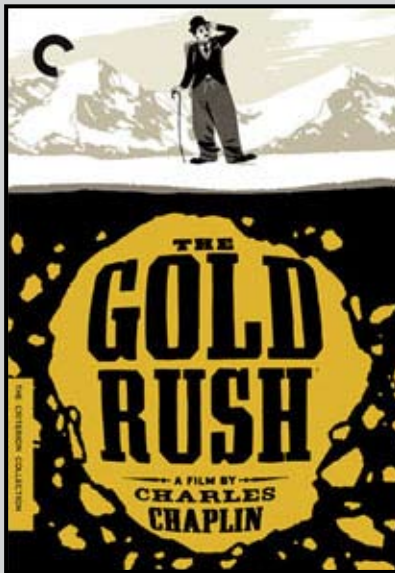
ON DVD & BLU-RAY

The Great White Silence

Captain Scott described documentarian Herbert Ponting as "an artist in love with his work," and after the expedition's tragic outcome Ponting devoted the rest of his life to ensuring that the grandeur of the Antarctic and expedition's heroism would not be forgotten - the images that he captured have fired imaginations ever since.



The BFI National Archive—custodian of the expedition negatives—has restored the film using the latest photochemical and digital techniques and reintroduced the sophisticated use of colour. The alien beauty of the landscape is brought dramatically to life, showing the world of the expedition in brilliant detail. (<http://filmstore.bfi.org.uk>)



The Gold Rush

Charlie Chaplin's comedic masterpiece—which charts a prospector's search for fortune in the Klondike and his discovery of romance (with the beautiful Georgia Hale)—forever cemented the iconic status of Chaplin and his Little Tramp character. Shot partly on location in the Sierra Nevada and featuring such timeless gags as the dance of the dinner rolls and the meal of boiled shoe leather, *The Gold Rush* is an indelible work of heart-warming hilarity. This special edition features both Chaplin's definitive 1942 version, for which the director added new music and narration, and a new restoration of the original 1925 silent film.



Extras found on the DVD/Blu-Ray include a new high-definition digital restoration of the 1942 sound version, with uncompressed monaural soundtrack (Blu-ray edition); a new 2K digital transfer of the reconstructed original 1925 silent film, restored in collaboration with the Cineteca di Bologna, with a newly recorded adaptation of director Charlie Chaplin's score, presented in 5.1 surround DTS-HD Master Audio (Blu-ray only); New audio commentary for the 1925 version by Chaplin biographer Jeffrey Vance; and *Chaplin Today: "The Gold Rush"* (2002), a short documentary featuring filmmaker Idrissa Ouédraogo. (www.criterion.com)

MOMENTS IN SILENCE

May 31, 1915 – Western star William S. Hart makes directorial debut with *The Darkening Trail*

June 28, 1916 – Famous Players-Lasky Corporation is founded

July 1, 1919 – Actress Mary Miles Minter signs contract with Paramount

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