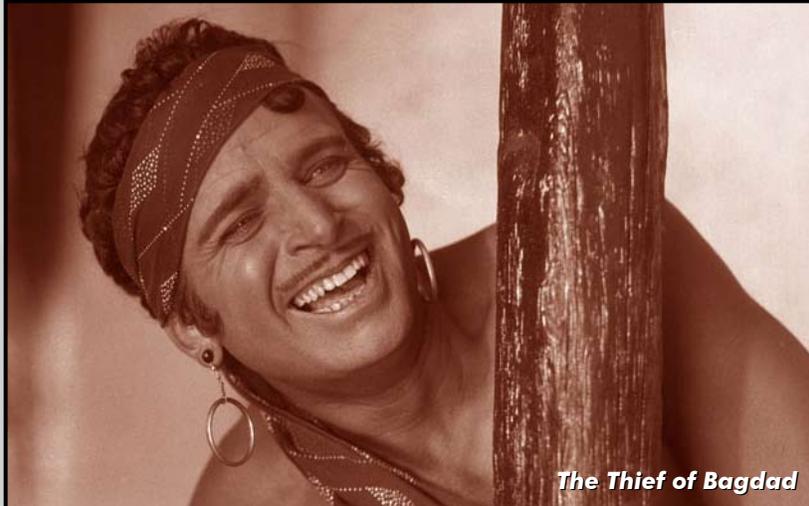


THE SILENT TREATMENT

ALL THE NEWS FIT TO HEAR • VOLUME 06 • NUMBER 06 • NOV/DEC 2012

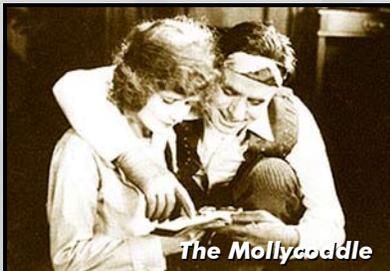


The Thief of Bagdad

FAIRBANKS AT THE FORUM

NEW YORK CITY. Douglas Fairbanks Sr. was a tonic. Just as the U.S. was taking its place on the world stage, Doug's cheerfulness, enthusiasm, optimism, athleticism, and get-up-goism epitomized the post-WWI American.

Following a fifteen-year stint as one of Broadway's sprightliest (and most perpetual) juveniles, Fairbanks' bouncy persona adapted brilliantly to the movies, first in a series of jovial comedies satirizing fads like quack psychiatry, paranormalism, etc. – and with the dawn of the 1920's then switched gears to costume super-productions, setting new standards for lavish spectacle. Doug's marriage



The Mollycoddle

to America's Sweetheart, Mary Pickford, and his co-founding of United Artists helped secure his position as "The King of Hollywood."

Kicking off on November 11th and running Monday nights (and other select dates) through January 14th, 2013, is a celebration of Fairbanks pictures at the **Film Forum** highlighting the wide range of his storied career.

For Christmas week (December 21-27), the spectacular Fairbanks fantasy *The Thief of Bagdad* (1924), directed by Raoul Walsh, will have a one-week run in a stunning new DCP restoration. Also showing for the holidays is Allan Dwan's epic evocation of *Robin Hood* (1922) on December 23rd and 25th.

The series additionally includes the pre-spectacle pictures that made the all-American, athletic and go-getting Doug a super-star such as *In Again, Out Again* (1917) and *Flirting with Fate* (1916) screening together on December 17th; and *The Mollycoddle* (1920) on January 7th.

The series closes out with the swash-buckling adventure, *The Three Musketeers* (1921) on January 14th.

All features will be shown in 35mm (unless otherwise noted) with live piano accompaniment by Steve Sterner. (Complete schedule at www.filmforum.org)

SLAPSTICK FESTIVAL 2013

BRISTOL, UK. From January 24th to January 27th, Bristol plays host to the 9th installment of the **Slapstick Festival**. Launched in 2005, the festival has received steady growth and enthusiasm with each passing season where audiences come to see some of today's most celebrated comedy performers and fine film musicians pay their tributes to the great clowns of the golden age that extends into four venues around town.



The Girl with a Hat Box

This year the central theme is **Funny Ladies**. Though the names of Chaplin and Keaton may be better known and remembered today, the girls gave as good as they got, and this is a chance to see some great comedienne like Marion Davies and Colleen Moore, plus many other irresistible comedy troupers.

TST

Running at the Arnolfini on January 24th is *The Girl with a Hatbox* (1927) that offers an unforgettable comedy performance by the gifted Ukrainian actress Anna Sten, who later became a Hollywood star; and the conclusion to the festival features a "Comedy Legend" tribute honoring the great living British "Funny Lady" June Whitfield at Bristol's Old Vic Sunday evening.

The male greats are not forgotten either with the opening gala at the Colston Hall with Harold Lloyd's *The Kid Brother*, and the European Silent Screen Virtuosi will provide musical accompaniment for Buster Keaton's *College* (Full program at www.slapstick.org).

KROTONA: THE HOLLYWOOD UTOPIA

By Mary Mallory (exclusive to TST)

Near the top of Argyle Ave. and Gower St. above Hollywood, a small religious community of Theosophists founded their spiritual home in 1912, a compound called the **Krotona Institute**. Founded by Henry Steel Olcott and H. P. Blavatsky (born Helena Petrovna Hahn) in 1875, the Theosophical Society revolved around the study of ageless truths found in

all major religions and how to apply these truths to everyday life through clairvoyance, science, & fellowship.



Krotona, the western home of the sect, established by Annie Besant and A. P. Warrington, was a series of eclectic Moorish and Spanish buildings on an eleven acre lot, representing a spiritual safe haven, school, and home for the group. The community offered meetings, lectures, classes, and theatrical presentations, some featuring the great dancer Ruth St. Denis. After almost fifteen years in residence, the group moved their spiritual home to Ojai in 1926.

The area surrounding Krotona attracted several silent stars over the years because of its somewhat secluded location and privacy. Actress Belle Bennett resided at 6180 Temple Hill Dr. in 1927 and 1928, and some

articles at the time state that she practiced theosophy. Comedian Charlie Chaplin rented the home Moorcrest at 6147 Temple Hill Dr. from 1923-1925, more a waystation for him between the peripatetic life of hotels and the grandeur of his later home in Beverly Hills. Mary Astor's parents, Otto and Helen Langhanke bought this same eccentric home a few years later with money from their daughter, who married Kenneth Hawks, brother of director Howard Hawks, here in 1927. Astor's parents saw the home foreclosed in 1934 when they took out an \$18,000 loan to build a swimming pool, which they never used. Other celebrities to live on the street in the late 1920s included writer Samson Raphaelson and actors James and Lucille Gleason.

The elegant buildings still exist at the top of the hill, either as private residences or apartments, a lovely reminder of more elegant and peaceful times.

BOOK CORNER

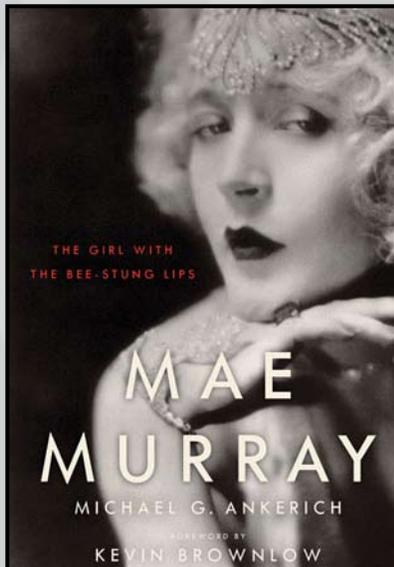
Mae Murray: THE GIRL WITH THE BEE STUNG LIPS

Mae Murray was a fiery presence in silent-era Hollywood. Renowned for her classic beauty and charismatic presence, she rocketed to stardom as a dancer in the Ziegfeld Follies, then moved across the country to star in her first film, *To Have and to Hold*, in 1916. An instant hit with audiences, Murray soon became one of the most famous names in Tinseltown.

However, Murray's moment in the spotlight was fleeting. The introduction of talkies, a string of failed marriages, a serious career blunder, and a number of bitter legal battles left the former star in a state of poverty and mental instability that she would never overcome.

In this intriguing biography, Mi-





Michael G. Ankerich traces Murray's career from the footlights of Broadway to the klieg lights of Hollywood, recounting her impressive body of work on the stage and screen while charting her rapid ascent to fame and decline into obscurity. (www.kentuckypress.com)

Dolores del Rio: BEAUTY IN LIGHT AND SHADE

By Linda B. Hall.

Dolores del Río's enormously successful career in Hollywood, in Mexico, and internationally illuminates issues of race, ethnicity, and gender through the lenses of beauty and celebrity. Far from being stigmatized as a woman of color, this Mexican star was acknowledged as the epitome of beauty in the Hollywood of the 1920s and early 1930s.

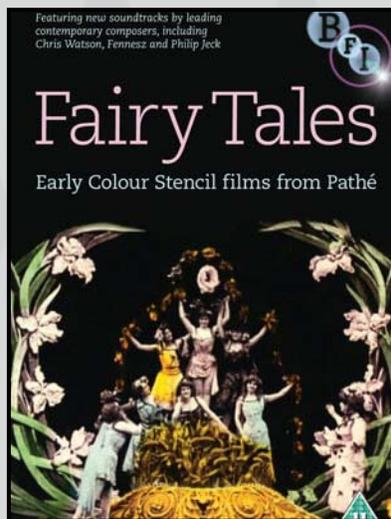
While she insisted upon her ethnicity, she was nevertheless coded white by the film industry and its fans, and she appeared for more than a decade as a romantic lead opposite white actors. With struggle and perseverance, she overcame the influence of men who hoped to dominate

her, ultimately controlling her own life professionally and personally. (www.sup.org)

ON DVD & BLU-RAY

Fairy Tales: EARLY COLOUR STENCIL FILMS FROM PATHE

Once upon a time, during the *belle époque* in turn-of-the-century Paris, a short-lived film form called *scènes de féeries* ("fairy films") were produced in great number by the Pathé Frères company. In jewel-like colours the films recreated the theatrical spectacles of the age with their fantastical settings, mythical beasts, supernatural beings and a plethora of stage illusion enhanced by the trickery of the new medium of film. Made to appeal to young and old spectators alike, these gorgeous films offer modern audiences a fascinating glimpse into the magical world of the nineteenth-century theatre.

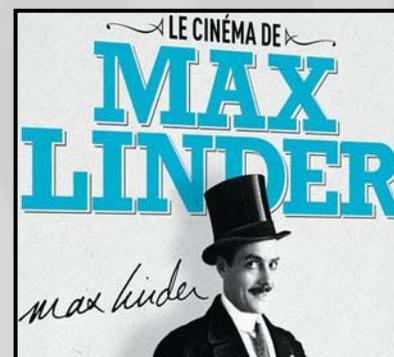


These breathtaking films are released here with newly-commissioned soundtracks composed by experimental artists from the leading British independent label Touch, including Chris Watson, Fennesz, Hil-

dur Guðnadóttir, Ryoji Ikeda, Philip Jeck, and BJNilsen amongst others. (www.bfi.org.uk)

The Cinema of Max Linder

Grouped in a single box set is a presentation of the work of the genius of comedic cinema that is Max Linder. Dive into his unique art and persona filled with elegance, humor and charm through this three disc presentation.



The first disc is comprised of 10 short films set to music by Jean-Marie Senia, spanning the years 1910-1915, including signature titles as *Max Takes a Bath* (1910), *Max's Holiday* (1913), and *Max and His Mother-in-Law* (1915). The next two discs include works by his daughter Maud with two documentaries about her father's life and career: *Together with Max Linder* and *The Man in the Silk Hat*; and an assembly of Max's three American masterpieces: *Be My Wife*, *Seven Years Bad Luck* and *The Three Must-Get-Theres* (1921-1922). (www.amazon.fr)

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