

THE SILENT TREATMENT

ALL THE NEWS FIT TO HEAR • VOLUME 09 • NUMBER 03 • FALL 2015

TO SAVE AND PROJECT

The 13th MoMA International Festival of Film Preservation



NEW YORK, NY. The Museum of Modern Art presents the 13th annual edition of **To Save and Project**, an international festival of newly preserved and restored films from archives, studios, distributors, foundations, and independent filmmakers, from November 4th through November 25th, 2015. The 13th edition of **To Save and Project** is organized by Joshua Siegel, Curator, and Dave Kehr, Adjunct Curator.

This year's festival includes some 75 newly restored features and shorts from 16 countries—nearly all of them New York or North American premieres—by filmmakers as diverse as Chantal Akerman, Dario Argento, Samuel Fuller, and Yasujiro Ozu. Many of the films will be receiving their first American screening since their original release, others will be shown in meticulously restored ver-

sions that recapture the long-lost sound and image quality of their initial release, and some will be publicly screened for the first time ever in New York. These films will join dozens of others from archives both public and private in a three-week overview of the exciting work being done around the world to reclaim endangered film and revive forgotten treasures.

Rediscoveries from the silent era include the Library of Congress restoration of Dorothy Arzner's *Get Your Man*, a 1927 feature starring Clara Bow; the Weimar classic *Variété* (1925) with Emil Jannings, in a stunning new edition from the Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau Stiftung Foundation; and Otto Rippert's 1916 science-fiction serial *Homunculus*, Germany's answer to *Fantômas*. A 1922 Norwegian film adaptation of Knut Hamsun's *Pan* is introduced by

Guy Maddin on November 24; and for lovers of silent comedies, we present the world premiere of a long-lost Alice Guy short from 1912, *Tramp Strategy*, as well as two recently re-discovered short films starring Stan Laurel (*Monsieur Don't Care*, 1924) and Oliver Hardy (*Maids and Muslin*, 1920) made before they became a team. A program of dazzlingly hand-painted, dyed, and stencil-colored shorts is presented in celebration of the scholarly new book **Fantasia of Color in Silent Cinema** (Amsterdam University Press, 2015), and a program of rarities from the Desmet Collection of the EYE Filmmuseum features the restoration premiere of one of the first American disaster movies, *When the Earth Trembled* (1913), which re-creates the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 and incorporates original footage of the quake's aftermath. *For full screening schedule, please visit MoMA.org/visit/calendar/films/1623.*



TST

Long-lost 47 Ronin film found in Japan

By Tomoyoshi Kubo (excerpted article, 10/15/15)

KYOTO. A long-lost film of *Chushingura*—the term used for representations of the 47 Ronin story—starring Kabuki actor Onoe Matsunosuke (1875-1926) has been unearthed in Kyoto, the old capital of Japan.



Medama no Matchan (Eyeballs Matsu) is the affectionate nickname given to the legendary actor. He was said to have appeared in more than a thousand films and is referred to as Japan's first movie star. Since many film prints of that time were lost after being discarded or destroyed in fires, only a small portion survive today. Only about 10 of his films have been confirmed to exist, so this latest discovery was extremely welcome.

The recently discovered film is a complete version of a 9.5mm silent Pathe Baby edition of Nikkatsu Corp.'s *Jitsuroku Chushingura* (The true record of Chushingura) produced in 1926, which was directed by Tomiyasu Ikeda. The film consists of four reels running at about 66 minutes and was re-edited for commercial home projection use.

The movie was discovered by Osaka University of Arts professor Yoneo Ota. He picked it out from among a collection of films donated to the Toy Film Museum in Kyoto's Nakagyo Ward, which collects old film prints and projectors.

The story of *Chushingura* is one of the most familiar tales of revenge in Japan. It begins in the Matsunoroka (Pine Corridor) of Edo Castle. It is March 1701 and the young lord of the Ako Domain, Asano Takuminokami, pulls his sword on Kira Kozukenosuke, an official of the shogunate, and injures him. Takuminokami is ordered to immediately commit *seppuku* ritual suicide. Takuminokami's retainers then became *ronin*, wandering samurai without a lord. After laying low for a time, Oishi Kuranosuke leads 46 of these warriors in a raid on the Kira residence. The tale ends with the ronin committing *seppuku* after slaying Kozukenosuke.

The other Matsunosuke-starring *Chushingura* that remains today is a version edited into a single film from several movies and directed by Shozo Makino, a pioneer of Japanese cinema, between 1910-1912. The recently discovered version is one of Matsunosuke's last starring roles. Full article at http://ajw.asahi.com/article/cool_japan/movies/AJ201510150006.

The Silent Film Project: Digitizing Private Collections for Public Access



The Silent Film Project is a new digitization initiative at the Library of Congress. This project grew out of the study **Survival of American Silent Feature Films: 1912 to 1929**, conducted by the Library of Congress and funded by the National



Film Preservation Board. The project is focused on locating silent feature films that were found in this study to either have incomplete or no archival holdings as listed in the **American Silent Feature Film Database**.

The goal of the Silent Film Project at the Library of Congress is to borrow, catalog, digitally preserve, and ensure the availability of silent (and selected sound era) films for public viewing and research. Private collectors are engaging in the project by lending their small gauge silent films that do not otherwise survive or only survive in a less complete form. The Library of Congress is actively coordinating with private collections to borrow and scan silent films released on 16mm, including Kodascope and Universal Show-At-Home features. The Library will also consider borrowing 8mm, 9.5mm, and 28mm prints.

Since the launch of the project, films that have been borrowed from collectors include *East Side-West Side* (1923), *Lash of the Whip* (1924), *Golden Trails* (1927), *Love at First Flight* (1928), *A Hero on Horseback* (1927), *Hoofbeats of Vengeance* (1929) and *Guardians of the Wild* (1928). Many of the films that have been borrowed are the only prints known to exist, or are more complete than any existing archival holdings.

Collectors can contact Amy Jo Stanfill at silentfilm@loc.gov to learn more about loaning their films to be digitized as part of the **Silent Film**

Project. Films that are borrowed will be repaired, cleaned, scanned, and returned to the collector. Participating collectors will also receive digital files of their scanned films, which will also be made available to the public. The Library of Congress encourages collectors to engage in this exciting new project. (*Published with permissions by LOC*)

MACK & MABEL

Musical Revival Hits UK Stages

UNITED KINGDOM. Direct from its premiere at Chichester Festival Theatre in West Sussex, this major new production of the classic 1974 Broadway musical **Mack & Mabel** stars Olivier award-winning Michael Ball as Mack Sennett.

Based on the real-life romance between Hollywood legends Mack Sennett and Mabel Normand, it tells the story of a group of pioneering filmmakers who changed the world surrounded by the great fun of the silent screen: heroes in capes, girls tied to the tracks, glamorous Bathing Beauties, and the chaos of the Keystone Kops.



Mack & Mabel features a score by Jerry Herman including its classic Broadway hits including **I Won't Send Roses** and **Time Heals Every-**

thing. In a production by a multi-award winning team, with direction by Jonathan Church and choreography by Stephen Mear, this musical comedy is both a poignant love story and a riveting tribute to the grit and glamour of the era of silent movies. Complete tour schedule available at mackandmabelmusical.com.

IN THEATRES

Love Among the Ruins

A FAUX DOCUMENTARY



A love letter to early Italian cinema, **Love Among the Ruins** (2015) is a faux documentary about the miraculous discovery and restoration of a long-lost Italian silent film. The Lumini brothers, two cinematic visionaries almost overlooked in the history of cinema, ignites the imagination of a contemporary filmmaker who makes the discovery of a lifetime.

In this story, a 6.0-magnitude earthquake strikes northern Italy, severely affecting the historic city of Ferrara and causing significant damage to the region's Medieval and Renaissance architecture. A cracked wall in Ferrara's municipal building reveals a hidden treasure: several cans of old film—could this be the long-lost silent romance written and directed by the Lumini brothers of Ferrara in the early 1920s? Can the deteriorated film be repaired so new audiences around the world can enjoy this moving story of lovers caught in the events of World War I?

Scholars speculate, experts and archivists hypothesize, and finally, the 90-year old film is restored and set to a new musical score. The talents of actors long passed away (or maybe not!) along with the beauty of Ferrara in the 1920s are once again seen on the screen with a tale as striking and poignant for today's viewers as it was nearly a century ago. (www.loveamongtheruinsmovie.com)

The Forbidden Room

A NEW FILM BY GUY MADDIN

Guy Maddin, a master of the bizarre (*My Winnipeg*, *Brand Upon the Brain!*) and co-director Evan Johnson, inspired by early sound films from the 1920s, conjure a hallucinatory, deep-sea fantasia. A woodsman inexplicably appears aboard a submarine, trapped under water for months, carrying mysterious cargo. As the terrified crew make their way through the corridors of the doomed vessel, they voyage into the origins of their darkest fears.



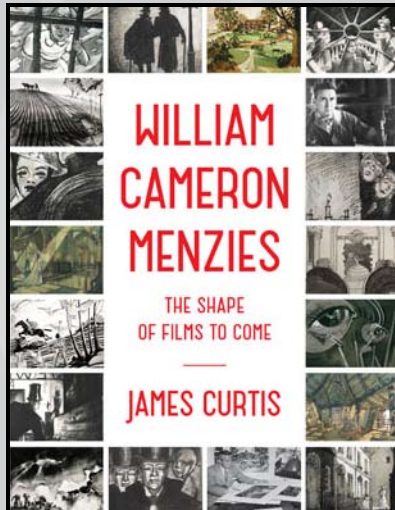
Innovatively shot using techniques that reinvent early cinema, this "exhilarating slipstream of two-strip Technicolor" (David Ehrlich, *Time Out New York*) includes cameos by Charlotte Rampling, Geraldine Chaplin, a lobotomized Udo Kier, an elevator-dwelling Mathieu Amalric, and poet John Ashbery—who offers some helpful bathing tips. (<http://theforbiddenroom-film.com/>)

TST BOOKCORNER

William Cameron Menzies: THE SHAPE OF FILMS TO COME

By James Curtis

He was the consummate designer of film architecture on a grand scale, influenced by German expressionism and the work of the great European directors; he collaborated with producers including Samuel Goldwyn and Selznick; and great directors, among them D.W. Griffith, Alfred Hitchcock, Lewis Milestone, Frank Capra, and Raoul Walsh.



He was known for his visual flair and love of adventure and fantasy films—a timeless innovator who meticulously preplanned the color and design of each film through a series of continuity sketches that made clear camera angles, lighting, and the actors' positions for each scene.

Interviewing colleagues, friends, and family, and drawing on archives, among them the William Cameron Menzies family collection, with access to original artwork, correspondence, scrapbooks, and unpublished writing, and with more than 130 black & white and color illustrations,

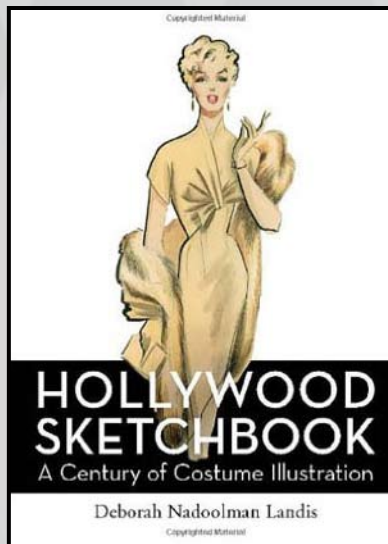
James Curtis has given a full-scale portrait of an extraordinary artist in his time. (www.randomhouse.com)

Hollywood Sketchbook

A CENTURY OF COSTUME ILLUSTRATION

By Deborah Nadoolman Landis

The very first book on the subject of costume illustration for the movies, **Hollywood Sketchbook**, contains over 500 previously unpublished drawings. More than just pretty pictures, each drawing provides a blueprint for the creation of a costume and a character. This gorgeous volume affords the viewer a rare peek inside the portfolios of a century of costume designers and illustrators including Theadora Van Runkle (*Bonnie and Clyde*, *The Godfather: Part II*), Piero Tosi (*The Leopard*, *Death in Venice*), and Travis Banton (*Scarlet Empress*, *Blonde Venus*). Academy Award-nominated costume designer Deborah Nadoolman Landis follows-up her acclaimed **Dressed: A Century of Hollywood Costume Design** to showcase the artistry of costume illustrators and designers from silent film to today's blockbusters. (www.harpercollins.com)

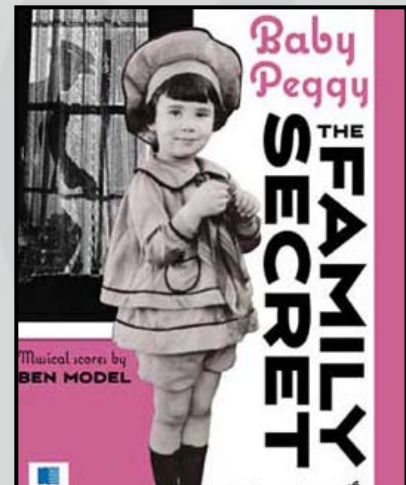


HOME ENTERTAINMENT

The Family Secret

STARRING BABY PEGGY

The Family Secret (1924) was the third feature-length film to star "Baby Peggy" Montgomery, and she eventually warms the heart of her family—and her audience.



Baby Peggy had already starred in more than 40 comedy shorts by the time she made this movie, having entered movies in 1921 at age 2½. This edition of *The Family Secret* on this DVD features a new 35mm restoration by the Library of Congress, with a new theatre organ score by Ben Model. Bonus features include the newly restored Baby Peggy shorts *Circus Clowns* (1922) and *Miles of Smiles* (1923), plus newsreel excerpts. (www.undercrankproductions.com)

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