

True art transcends time.



THE
SILENT
FILM FESTIVAL

July 13, 1997

Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street, San Francisco

The 2nd Silent Film Festival is here! This year we're expanding to bring you four programs of classic silents featuring some of cinema's greatest stars. We'll also present a very special tribute to the Castro Theatre in honor of its 75th anniversary. Come celebrate this landmark movie palace at The Silent Film Festival!

HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS: Tickets may be purchased the day of the festival at the Castro Theatre box office beginning at 11am or in advance at over 140 BASS ticket centers including The Wherehouse and Tower Records or call BASSCHARGE at 510-762-BASS. When purchasing tickets through BASS please use the appropriate program code.

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Photo courtesy of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

Program 1 11:30am \$8.00 Door Code: ESLF713A

POOR LITTLE RICH GIRL (1917)

CAST Mary Pickford, Madeleine Traverse, Charles Wellesley, Gladys Fairbanks.
DIR Maurice Tourneur. 35mm b/w print from The Mary Pickford Foundation.

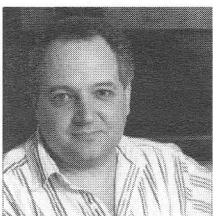
Funny and touching, *Poor Little Rich Girl* is a film you won't want to miss! In one of her most famous roles, Mary Pickford is Gwendolyn, a lonely eleven-year-old who has everything she could want but the love of her busy parents. Given too much sleeping medication, Gwendolyn finds herself traveling to The Land of Happy Children in a surreal dream sequence that provides the film's climax. This playful movie explores the imagination of a child who literally sees bears on Wall Street and her nurse as a Snake-in-the-Grass. Full of beautiful photography and exquisite storybook-like sets, the film was directed by Maurice Tourneur, one of early cinema's most influential filmmakers. *Poor Little Rich Girl* was a smash hit at its release and exercised a major influence over the rest of Pickford's career. Our special guest for this program will be Keith Lawrence, head of The Mary Pickford Foundation, who will introduce this very rare screening of Mary's own 35mm print!

Program 2 2:15pm \$8.00 Door Code: ESLF713B

UPSTAGE (1926)

CAST Norma Shearer, Oscar Shaw, Tenen Holtz, Gwen Lee.
DIR Monta Bell. 35mm b/w print from Turner Entertainment Co.

One of MGM's most popular stars, Norma Shearer began her career in the movies by playing piano in a nickelodeon. She revisits her roots in *Upstage*, an engaging story about vaudevillians and backstage life. Norma plays Dolly Haven, a small-town girl who comes to New York in search of a stenography job and ends up causing a sensation on the stage. Success goes to her head until she learns to pay her dues and become a "real trouper." In a suspenseful conclusion involving a little girl, a ventriloquist's dummy and a knife-throwing act, Dolly courageously demonstrates the adage "the show must go on." Directed by Monta Bell, a filmmaker whose work is now undergoing a revival, *Upstage* is a genuine look at the tedium and idiosyncrasies of life in the wings. Our special guests will be Mick LaSalle, the popular newspaper and television film critic, and Mark Vieira, author of *Hurrell's Hollywood Portraits*, the new book on glamour photographer George Hurrell published by Harry N. Abrams, Inc.



MICHAEL MORTILLA

We are proud to welcome back composer and pianist Michael Mortilla, who will provide original piano accompaniment for both *Poor Little Rich Girl* and *Upstage*. Michael delivered a remarkable performance at last year's festival with his accompaniment for *Gretchen the Greenhorn*. He's best known for his score to the Charlie Chaplin Mutual short *The Rink*, which was the first film ever to be broadcast complete over the Internet. Most recently, Michael appeared as guest soloist with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra performing his score for *Easy Street*.

The Silent Film Festival is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the birth and development of film as an art form and its value as a record of early 20th century life.
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Photo courtesy of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

Program 3 4:45pm \$8.00 Door Code: ESLF713C

DOCTOR JACK (1922)

CAST Harold Lloyd, Mildred Davis, John T. Prince, Eric Mayne.
 DIR Fred Newmeyer. 35mm b/w print from UCLA Film & Television Archive.

Join us for a special celebration! In honor of the Castro Theatre's 75th anniversary, we're presenting the rare *Doctor Jack*. Harold Lloyd is Doctor "Jack" Jackson, a good-hearted country physician who works miracles with his common sense prescriptions. It's love at first sight when he meets the Sick-Little-Well-Girl, played by Mildred Davis. Realizing that all his new patient needs is a little excitement in her life, Doctor Jack begins a cure which is highly unorthodox and utterly hilarious! With his bouyant optimism and ambitious, irrepressible spirit, Lloyd remains the perfect embodiment of Jazz Age America. He's also one of the funniest comedians you'll ever see. A big hit in 1922, *Doctor Jack* was released the same year the Castro Theatre opened. Our special guest for this program will be Steve Levin, the theater historian who played a key role in having the Castro declared a landmark. Before the film he'll provide a fascinating look at the history of this magnificent movie palace!

Program 4 8:00pm \$10.00 Door Code: ESLF713D

THE MERRY WIDOW (1925)

CAST John Gilbert, Mae Murray, Roy D'Arcy, Tully Marshall, Josephine Crowell.
 DIR Erich von Stroheim. 35mm b/w print from Turner Entertainment Co.

Directed by Erich von Stroheim, *The Merry Widow* is one of the great classics of silent cinema. The story of a romance between a prince and a show girl, the film is both a dazzling entertainment and a scathing satire of aristocracy. John Gilbert is dashing Prince Danilo, second in line to the Montebianco throne. Mae Murray plays American dancer Sally O'Hara, the new girl in town. Soon everyone in the kingdom is vying for her attention, including Danilo and his lascivious cousin, the Crown Prince Mirko. But when the real power behind the throne, the millionaire Baron Sadoja, expresses a desire for Sally, affairs of state threaten affairs of the heart. Best remembered for his masterpieces *Greed* and *The Wedding March*, Erich von Stroheim was one of the most gifted and exacting artists ever employed by the Hollywood studio system. Despite constant feuding on the set during its production, *The Merry Widow* was his one unqualified box office success. Don't miss this rare showing of a legendary film!



DENNIS JAMES

Virtuoso organ soloist Dennis James is back to provide accompaniment on the Mighty Castro Wurlitzer for both *Doctor Jack* and *The Merry Widow*. A master musician, Dennis regularly performs internationally as an organ and piano soloist in addition to accompanying and directing chamber ensembles and major symphony orchestras. His magnificent performance thrilled a sold-out house at last year's presentation of *Ben-Hur*. If you've never seen the incredible Dennis James accompany a silent film, it's an experience you have to hear to believe!

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