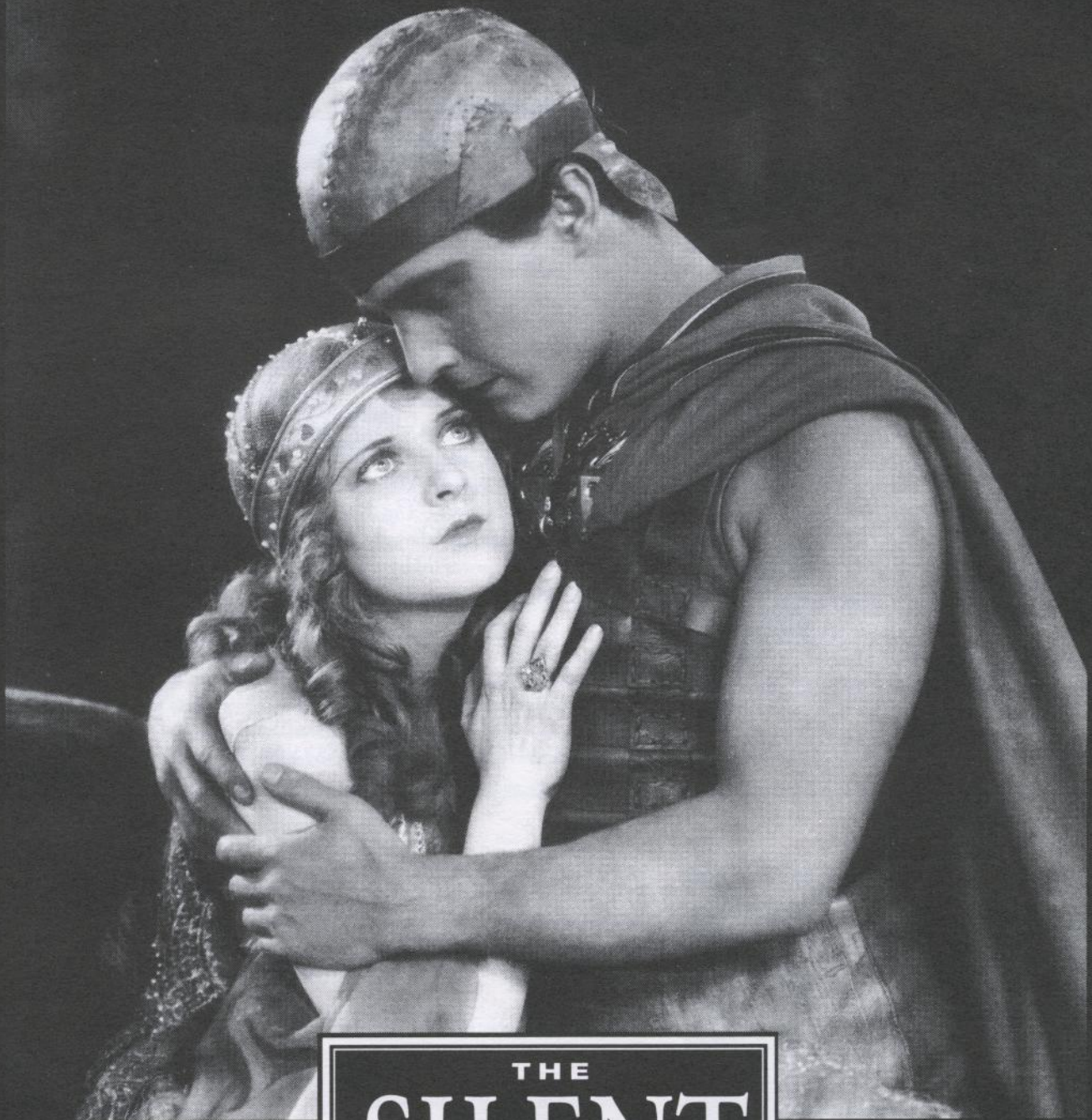


True art transcends time.



THE
SILENT
FILM FESTIVAL

July 14, 1996

Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street, San Francisco

Welcome to The Silent Film Festival, where you'll see some of the most beautiful and amazing films ever made! For our first year, we've selected three programs that highlight the work of organizations that preserve and present silent film today. Come see these restored classics as they were meant to be seen - on the big screen, with live music and in the magnificent Castro Theatre!



CAST Dorothy Gish, Ralph Lewis and Eugene Palette.
DIR Chester M. and Sidney A. Franklin. USA, 35mm, b/w with tints. Restored print from UCLA Film and Television Archive.

PROGRAM 1 12:45PM \$7.00 Advance \$8.00 Door

GRETCHEN THE GREENHORN (1916)

Presented in collaboration with The Silent Society and UCLA Film and Television Archive

Set in the tenements of New York, *Gretchen the Greenhorn* is the delightful story of a recent immigrant to America. Dorothy Gish is Gretchen, a good-natured Dutch girl whose new life is full of hardship, but also friendship and romance. When Gretchen and her father fall prey to counterfeiters, only friends can save them. This beautifully photographed melodrama is one of the few surviving films of Dorothy Gish, as popular an actress in her day as her sister Lillian. You may never get another chance to see this very rare feature again! Also showing: coming attraction trailers for lost films *Just Another Blonde* (1926), *The Patriot* (1928) and *Beau Sabreur* (1928). Plus *The Wrong Door* (1904) and the only surviving reel of John Ford's *The Village Blacksmith* (1922). All films preserved by the UCLA Film and Television Archive with funding from The Silent Society.

MICHAEL MORTILLA

Former Company Pianist for Martha Graham, Michael Mortilla often accompanies silent films for The Silent Society and the annual Cinecon in Los Angeles. This year, his score for the Charlie Chaplin film *Easy Street* will be performed by full orchestra at the Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia.



CAST Janet Gaynor, Charles Farrell, Guinn Williams, Hedwiga Reichert. DIR Frank Borzage. USA, 35mm, b/w. Restored print from George Eastman House.

PROGRAM 2 3:15PM \$7.00 Advance \$8.00 Door

LUCKY STAR (1929)

Presented in association with the Pordenone Silent Film Festival

Lucky Star is a charming story you won't want to miss! Janet Gaynor is Mary, a poor farm girl who befriends Tim, a kind-hearted veteran played by Charles Farrell. The two forge a unique and caring relationship until Mary's domineering mother and Tim's old army rival threaten to destroy their happiness. As Scott Eyman writes, director Frank Borzage "shows us two people falling in love, and makes us fall in love with them, too." The poetic landscape of farms, forests and streams was constructed entirely in the studio. Considered lost until 1990, *Lucky Star* was rediscovered in the Netherlands and restored for its premier revival at the Pordenone Silent Film Festival in Italy. We're happy to present this film as a Pordenone highlight, especially at the Castro Theatre where Janet Gaynor got her start in the movies - as an usherette!

JIM RIGGS

Currently House Organist for the Paramount Theatre in Oakland, Jim Riggs has occupied similar positions at the Grand Lake, Castro and Stanford Theatres. Recently he performed his score for *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* at the "One Hundred Years of Cinema" celebration in Manchester, England.





CAST Ramon Novarro, Francis X. Bushman, May McAvoy.
DIR Fred Niblo. USA, 35mm, b/w with tints and two-strip Technicolor sequences. Restored print from Turner Entertainment Co.

PROGRAM 3 7:00PM \$9.00 Advance \$10.00 Door

BEN-HUR (1925)

One of the most lavishly produced films of all time, *Ben-Hur* features a cast of thousands, magnificent sets and astonishing special effects. Ramon Novarro is Ben-Hur, a Jewish prince who survives banishment to seek revenge for the persecution of his family. Francis X. Bushman is his nemesis, the Roman Centurion Messala. Containing some of the most thrilling scenes ever put on film, the spectacular chariot race alone is worth the price of admission. 42 cameras were used to simultaneously capture the action! In 1987, *Ben-Hur* was restored to its original brilliance by film historians Kevin Brownlow and David Gill, in collaboration with the Czechoslovakian Film Archive and Turner Entertainment Co. This restoration includes the original color tints and beautiful two-strip Technicolor sequences. Not shown in San Francisco during its revival tour, here's your chance to see this legendary classic!

DENNIS JAMES

Dennis James performs internationally as an organ and piano soloist in addition to accompanying and directing chamber ensembles and major symphony orchestras. In 1981, he was organist for the world revival tour of *Napoleon*. This July, he will appear at Radio City Music Hall for the American Guild of Organists 100th anniversary celebration.



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 • **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Gary Aaronson, Richard J. Meyer, Stephen Salmons, Melissa Chittick, Elizabeth Washburn • **ADVISORY BOARD:** Peter Fowler, Stephen Gong, Randy Haberkamp, Dennis James, Albert Johnson, Richard Dyer MacCann, Russell Merritt, David Shepard, Scott Simmon, Bill Talen, Charles Wolfe • **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Melissa Chittick • **EVENT DIRECTOR:** Stephen Salmons • **VOLUNTEERS:** Matthew Berson, Robyn Chelsea, Chad Chittick, Caitlin Dixon, Denise Erbeti, Thomas Gladysz, Mary Gregory, David Harding, Ann Henderson, Kay Hope, Judith Kahan, Jenny King, Paul Oehlke, Kathleen Pavao, Dave Seifert, Chris Snowden, Beth Strachan, Gilda Tabarez, Laura Torell

CUT HERE AND RETURN

You can purchase tickets the day of the event at the Castro Theatre box office beginning at 12:15pm. To purchase discount Festival Passes or advance tickets please use this order form. Discount Festival Passes are good for admission to all three programs and are available only in advance. To allow for processing, all orders must be received by July 1st. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY.

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