

THURSDAY MAY 5



FOOLISH WIVES

7:00 pm \$25/\$23 OPENING NIGHT PRESENTATION

Directed by Erich von Stroheim | **US, 1922** | 146 m.

With Erich von Stroheim, Rudolph Christians, Miss Dupont, Maude George

A trio of Russian con artists take a luxurious villa above Monte Carlo to prey on wealthy marks in this European playground of postwar decadence. Stroheim—in the monocled role that solidified him as “the man you love to hate”—stars as the fraudulent Count Karamzin, who targets moneyed women to blackmail them with the help of “cousins” Mae Busch and Maude George. The opulent sets—with the California coast standing in for Monaco—shine in this glorious restoration by MoMA and SFSFF.

Plus: **SAN FRANCISCO: THE GOLDEN GATE CITY** (4 m.)

Musical accompaniment by Timothy Brock **conducting the** SF Conservatory of Music Orchestra

☛ The SFSFF Award for commitment to the preservation and presentation of silent cinema will be presented to New York’s Museum of Modern Art before the screening of *Foolish Wives*.

☛ Opening Night Party follows this screening. See reverse for details.

FRIDAY MAY 6

AMAZING TALES FROM THE ARCHIVES

11:00 AM FREE ADMISSION (see reverse for description)

BELOW THE SURFACE

2:30 PM \$18/\$16

Directed by Irvin Willat | **US, 1920** | 93 m.

With Hobart Bosworth, Lloyd Hughes, Grace Darmond

What happens when a couple of city slickers try to scam a hard-working family on New England’s stony shore? Find out in Irvin V. Willat’s follow-up to *Behind the Door*, another action-packed melodrama headlined by the silent era’s most flinty-eyed no-nonsense protagonist, Hobart Bosworth.

Musical accompaniment by Philip Carli

THE PRIMROSE PATH

4:45 PM \$18/\$16

Directed by Harry O. Hoyt | **US, 1925** | 63 m.

With Clara Bow, Wallace MacDonald, Arline Pretty, Stuart Holmes

One of 14 features rising star Clara Bow made in 1925, this quickly paced programmer revolves around a playboy ne’er-do-well ripe for redemption and the faithful chorine who will always believe in him. Directed by *The Lost World*’s Harry O. Hoyt.

Musical accompaniment by Wayne Barker



BLIND HUSBANDS

7:00 PM \$24/\$22

Directed by Erich von Stroheim | **US, 1919** | 101 m.

With Erich von Stroheim, Sam De Grasse, Francellia Billington, T. H. Gibson-Gowland

Not only is he the star but Erich von Stroheim also wrote this remarkable first film as its director. Playing a womanizing cad rather than his usual evil Hun, he gave silent-era audiences another reason to hiss at him as he tries to snare a conquest at a resort in the Austrian Alps.

Musical accompaniment by Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra

WAXWORKS

9:20 PM \$18/\$16

Original Language Title: DAS WACHSFIGURENKABINETT

Directed by Paul Leni, Leo Birinski | **Germany, 1924** | 82 m.

With William Dieterle, Emil Jannings, Conrad Veidt, Werner Krauss

A young poet is hired by a sideshow museum to write publicity for the waxworks’ most notorious figures. As he weaves his tales, the tyrants come to life, embodied by Emil Jannings, Conrad Veidt, and Werner Krauss, in increasingly disturbing vignettes—but Paul Leni’s expressionist sets steal the show.

Musical accompaniment by Guenter Buchwald and Frank Bockius

SATURDAY MAY 7

THE KING OF THE CIRCUS

11:00 AM \$18/\$16

Original Language Title: MAX, DER ZIRKUSKÖNIG

Directed by Edouard-Émile Violet | **Austria, 1924** | 58 m.

With Max Linder, Vilma Bánky, Eugen Burg, Viktor Franz

Movies’ first international star and France’s nimblest slapstick artist Max Linder trades his top hat for a circus whip in the last film he completed before his death in 1925. Will tangling with a real-live lion get him the girl?

Musical accompaniment by Philip Carli

THE GREAT VICTORIAN MOVING PICTURE SHOW

1:00 PM \$18/\$16

UK, 1897–1901 | 75 m.

British Film Institute’s Bryony Dixon will narrate her selection of rare treasures from BFI’s collection—early large-format films, each a minute or two, that capture the tail end of the Victorian world in all its variety and splendor.

Musical accompaniment by Stephen Horne and Frank Bockius

STEAMBOAT BILL, JR.

3:00 PM \$18/\$16

Directed by Charles Reisner, Buster Keaton | **US, 1928** | 71 m.

With Buster Keaton, Ernest Torrance, Marion Byron, Tom McGuire

Buster Keaton’s last feature as an independent is a doozy, with our stone-faced hero mercilessly tossed about by a cyclone and performing the most brazenly death-defying stunt in his already very dangerous repertoire. We agree with *Screenland*’s assessment: “Buster is meek and the meek shall inherit the Earth.”

Musical accompaniment by Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra

APART FROM YOU

5:00 PM \$18/\$16

Directed by Mikio Naruse | **Japan, 1933** | 72 m.

With Mitsuko Yoshikawa, Akio Isono, Sumiko Mizukubo

Original Language Title: KIMI TO WAKARETE

The lives of geishas became a recurring theme for Mikio Naruse, whose sensitive portrayals of women on the margins elevated him to the stature of fellow Japanese directors Ozu and Kurosawa. *Apart from You* tells the story of an aging geisha struggling to support her sullen teenage son and a young colleague.

Musical accompaniment by Guenter Buchwald

REBIRTH OF A NATION

7:00 PM \$24/\$22

Presentation by DJ Spooky (Paul D. Miller) | 70 m.

Paul D. Miller’s live remix of the 1915 film that mythologized the slave-holding South debuted as a work-in-progress more than twenty years ago and remains even more relevant today. By deconstructing then reassembling *The Birth of a Nation* into a more truthful history, Miller demonstrates the awesome power of cinema right before our eyes.

Musical accompaniment by DJ Spooky and Classical Revolution **with** Guenter Buchwald

☛ Onstage discussion after screening with Paul D. Miller and Wesley Morris



SALOMÉ

9:20 PM \$18/\$16

Directed by Charles Bryant, Alla Nazimova | **US, 1922** | 72 m.

With Alla Nazimova, Mitchell Lewis, Rose Dione, Nigel De Brulier

A Hollywood picture unlike anything Hollywood had dared to make before, *Salomé* is a dazzling creation. Based on Oscar Wilde’s 1891 play with sets inspired by Aubrey Beardsley, fabulous costumes by Natacha Rambova, and the great Alla Nazimova—mesmerizing as the barefoot dancer who beguiled a king and beheaded a prophet.

Musical accompaniment by Matti Bye Ensemble

SUNDAY MAY 8

PENROD AND SAM

11:00 AM \$18/\$16

Directed by William Beaudine | **US, 1923** | 74 m. [95 m. total program]

With Ben Alexander, Joe Butterworth, Buddy Messinger

Penrod author Booth Tarkington casts pre-WWI childhood in a nostalgic glow with clubhouses, secret codes, and mischievous hijinks while director Beaudine uses his perfect touch with child actors to make *Penrod*’s motley gang ring true.

Plus: **THE KID REPORTER** (1923, starring Baby Peggy, 21 m.)

Musical accompaniment by Donald Sosin, Frank Bockius (feature) and William Lewis (short)

PREM SANYAS

1:30 PM \$18/\$16

Directed by Franz Osten, Himansu Rai | **India, 1926** | 97 m.

With Rani Bala, Sarada Ukil, Seeta Devi, Himansu Rai

Made by the filmmakers who helped lay the foundation for Bollywood, this India-made epic is a lush and vivid recounting of the Buddha’s origin story when Prince Siddhartha Gautama gave up royal privilege to seek spiritual enlightenment.

Musical accompaniment by Club Foot Hindustani **with** Pandit Krishna Bhatt



ARREST WARRANT

4:30 PM \$18/\$16

Original Language Title: ORDER NA ARESHT

Directed by Heorhii Tasin | **Soviet Ukraine, 1926** | 81 m.

With Vira Vareckaja, Chajri Emir-Zade, Nikolai Kutuzov, Nikolaj Panov

In the midst of civil war, Nadia’s revolutionary husband flees the city as the White Army advances, leaving her behind with a cache of secret documents to guard. Brilliant expressionist effects highlight Nadia’s psychological torture.

Musical accompaniment by the Sascha Jacobsen Quintet



SYLVESTER

7:00 PM \$24/\$22

Directed by Lupu Pick | **Germany, 1924** | 60 m.

With Edith Posca, Eugen Kloepper, Frieda Richard

It’s New Year’s Eve but joy is scant in this middle-class German home. An unhappy wife, a manipulative mother-in-law, and a weak-willed man are trapped in a tinderbox of discontentment while all the world around them celebrates. An intertitle-free script and an “unchained” camera combine for this nonpareil *kammerspielfilm*.

Musical accompaniment by Timothy Brock **conducting the** SF Silent Movie Orchestra

☛ The SFSFF Award for commitment to the preservation and presentation of silent cinema will be presented to the Deutsche Kinemathek before the screening of *Sylvester*.

A TRIP TO MARS

9:00 PM \$18/\$16

Original Language Title: HIMMELSKIBET

Directed by Holger-Madsen | **Denmark, 1918** | 77 m.

With Nicolai Neiiendam, Gunnar Tolnæs, Zanny Petersen, Alf Blütecher

A team of explorers, led by the heroic Captain Avanti Planetaros, take a “sky ship” to Mars and discover its inhabitants are peace-loving vegans! One of the earliest space operas, this Danish outer-space adventure is beautifully shot with impressive production design and a message of goodwill for all Earthlings.

Musical accompaniment by Wayne Barker

MONDAY MAY 9

SKINNER'S DRESS SUIT

12:00 NOON \$18/\$16

Directed by William A. Seiter | **US, 1926** | 75 m.

With Reginald Denny, Laura La Plante, Hedda Hopper, E.J. Ratcliffe

Skinner has a low-status job that’s not quite commensurate with his adoring wife’s idea of him. A giddy comedy of domestic mores from a bygone era when husbands went to work and wives went shopping is a delight in spite of itself, all owing to the charming goofiness of its stars Reginald Denny and Laura La Plante.

Musical accompaniment by Philip Carli

THE FIRE BRIGADE

2:00 PM \$18/\$16

Directed by William Nigh | **US, 1926** | 94 m.

With May McAvoy, Charles Ray, Holmes Herbert, Tom O’Brien

Spectacular color effects have been restored to this rip-roaring tale of a tightknit group of firefighters who modestly bear their birthright to heroism. When a corrupt real estate developer endangers a neighborhood orphanage these men come valiantly together to fulfill their destinies.

Musical accompaniment by Stephen Horne and Frank Bockius

LIMITE

4:15 PM \$18/\$16

Directed by Mário Peixoto | **Brazil, 1931** | 118 m.

With Olga Breno, Taciara Rei, Raul Schnoor, D.G. Pedrera

Brazilian director Mário Peixoto’s fascination with an evocative André Kertész photograph was the catalyst for this avant-garde masterpiece—his only completed film. The elements of the narrative—a man and two women adrift in a small boat—are secondary to the visual poetry of this haunting work.

Musical accompaniment by the Matti Bye Ensemble



DANS LA NUIT

7:00 PM \$24/\$22

Directed by Charles Vanel | **France, 1929** | 91 m.

With Charles Vanel, Sandra Milowanoff

A mining disaster upends the life of newlyweds in this extraordinary late silent-era film, directed by and starring Charles Vanel. While it passed without much notice upon its release, his labor of love displays not only technical bravura but also sincere feeling for the working-class France of Vanel’s upbringing.

Musical accompaniment by Stephen Horne

TUESDAY MAY 10

A SISTER OF SIX

12:00 NOON \$18/\$16

Original Language Title: FLICKORNA GYURKOVICS

Directed by Ragnar Hyltén-Cavallius | **Sweden, 1926** | 102 m.

With Lydia Potechina, Anna Lisa Ryding, Betty Balfour, Willy Fritsch

An international all-star cast graces this madcap concoction of romance and mistaken identity set in Hungary, revolving around two of the Gyurkovics sisters and their suitors outwitting each other on their way to love.

Musical accompaniment by Guenter Buchwald and Frank Bockius

THE STREET OF FORGOTTEN MEN

2:30 PM \$18/\$16

Directed by Herbert Brenon | **US, 1925** | 74 m.

With Percy Marmont, Mary Brian, Neil Hamilton

Easy Money Charlie makes a dishonest living duping swells out of their pocket change but when the girl he shielded from her past has her future threatened, a hero is re-revealed. Rich in colorful details of New York’s Bowery district, this unassuming little gem from hit-maker Herbert Brenon also marks the debut of Louise Brooks.

Musical accompaniment by Donald Sosin

THE HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR

4:30 PM \$18/\$16

Original Language Title: ISTORIYA GRAZHDANSKOI VOINY

Directed by Dziga Vertov | **Soviet Russia, 1921** | 94 m.

Embedded with the Red Army Dziga Vertov and his squad of cameramen captured the incremental street battles and major assaults waged against counterrevolutionaries during the Russian Civil War. Scattered in the archive as newsreels since a single screening in 1921, Vertov’s second feature-length documentary is finally whole again after 100 years.

Musical accompaniment by Anvil Orchestra

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

7:00 PM \$24/\$22

Directed by Wallace Worsley | **US, 1923** | 100 m.

With Lon Chaney, Patsy Ruth Miller, Norman Kerry, Kate Lester

Hollywood’s second crack at filming Victor Hugo’s gothic novel set the stage for the numerous versions to follow. Lon Chaney, who devised his own grotesque makeup, stars as the legendary bell ringer Quasimodo, mocked and tormented by all Paris. Universal Picture’s painstaking recreation of the 15th-century Île de la Cité, particularly the Notre Dame Cathedral, are on magnificent display.

Musical accompaniment by Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra

WEDNESDAY MAY 11



SMOULDERING FIRES

12:00 NOON \$18/\$16

Directed by Clarence Brown | **US, 1925** | 83 m.

With Pauline Frederick, Laura La Plante, Malcolm McGregor, Tully Marshall

Jane Vale (Pauline Frederick) is a 40-year-old executive running her own successful company when she falls for one of her employees who happens to be a much younger man. They seem to be growing closer until Jane’s younger sister (Laura La Plante) arrives home from college. A master of nuance, director Brown conveys intricate narrative details with clarity and subtlety.

Musical accompaniment by Stephen Horne

SALT FOR SVANETIA

2:15 PM \$18/\$16

Original Language Title: JIM SHVANTE

Directed by Mikhail Kalatozov | **Soviet Georgia, 1930** | 54 m. (84 m. total program)

Soviet director Kalatozov’s remarkable early film documents the medieval conditions of an isolated village in the Georgian Caucasus. Cut off from the modern world by snow-choked mountain passes, the villagers are mired in patriarchal superstition, ripe for salvation by Stalin’s Five-Year Plan. *Salt*’s breathtaking editing and camerawork transcend the propaganda piece it was intended to be.

Plus: **TEN MINUTES IN THE MORNING** (d. Aleksandre Jaliashvili, Soviet Georgia, 1930, 30 m.)

Musical accompaniment by the Matti Bye Ensemble

THE DIVINE VOYAGE

4:30 PM \$18/\$16

Original Language Title: LA DIVINE CROISIÈRE

Directed by Julien Duvivier | **France, 1929** | 99 m.

With Jean Murat, Thomy Bourdelle, Suzanne Christy

Julien Duvivier’s long-lost morality tale gives ill-treated sailors who take a risky stand against a greedy shipping tycoon a bit of divine justice. Beautifully photographed among seafaring locals on the Breton coast.

Musical accompaniment by Guenter Buchwald and Frank Bockius



LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN

7:00 PM \$24/\$22

Directed by Ernst Lubitsch | **US, 1925** | 94 m.

With Ronald Colman, May McAvoy, Bert Lytell, Irene Rich

Oscar Wilde’s drawing room comedy skewering stuffy Victorian mores is updated and transferred to the screen by Ernst Lubitsch, who masterfully replaces Wilde’s verbal wit for a visual one. A sparkling restoration from an impeccable nitrate print in MoMA’s collection!

Musical accompaniment by Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra