

WEDNESDAY APRIL 10



THE BLACK PIRATE

7:30 PM \$25/\$23 OPENING NIGHT PRESENTATION

Directed by Albert Parker | US, 1926 | 97 m.

With Douglas Fairbanks, Sam De Grasse, Donald Crisp, Billie Dove

This rousing Technicolor yarn set the standard for Hollywood pirate-adventure films. Ever lithe and charismatic, Douglas Fairbanks plays a nobleman disguised as a buccaneer who out-connives the most nefarious of high-seas villains in pursuit of justice. Restored by MoMA to its original color palette inspired by the Dutch masters, the film looks as if it were aged in a cask of time.

Musical accompaniment by the Donald Sosin Ensemble

THURSDAY APRIL 11

AMAZING TALES FROM THE ARCHIVES

11:00 AM FREE / Presenters: Bryony Dixon, Denise Khor, David Pierce

DANCING MOTHERS

2:00 PM \$20/\$18

Directed by Herbert Brenon | US, 1926 | 65 m. (85 m. total program)

With Alice Joyce, Clara Bow, Conway Tearle

Alice Joyce is sublime as the wife and mother who dares to stake her own claim in the swirl of 1920s nightlife that has already ensnared her philandering husband and thrill-seeking daughter, while Clara Bow effervesces as the Jazz Baby who needs saving from herself.

Preceded by *The Pill Pounder* (1923), starring Charlie Murray with Clara Bow.

Musical accompaniment by Wayne Barker

OH! WHAT A NURSE!

4:15 PM \$20/\$18

Directed by Charles Reisner | US, 1926 | 64 m.

With Syd Chaplin, Patsy Ruth Miller, Edgar Kennedy, Matthew Betz

Older brother to Charlie, Syd had his own on-screen career making something of a minor specialty out of female impersonation. Here, as an ambitious cub reporter, he gets “all dressed up” to foil a plan to steal a young heiress’s fortune in a slapstick farce that originated in the highbrow minds of Robert E. Sherwood (*The Best Years of Our Lives*) and Bertram Bloch (*Dark Victory*).

Musical accompaniment by Donald Sosin



THE LADY

6:00 PM \$20/\$18

Directed by Frank Borzage | US, 1925 | 86 m.

With Norma Talmadge, Wallace MacDonald, Emily Fitzroy

Norma Talmadge delivers a powerhouse performance as a music hall singer recalling a lifetime of heartbreak from a brothel in a squalid corner of Marseille. In a second collaboration with the actress, Frank Borzage, future director of *7th Heaven*, turns his gift for poignant romance toward a story about a mother’s greatest love.

Musical accompaniment by Stephen Horne

THE SEA HAWK

8:15 PM \$25/\$23

Directed by Frank Lloyd | US, 1924 | 122 m.

With Milton Sills, Wallace Beery, Enid Bennett, Lloyd Hughes

Abducted by a band of brigands at the behest of his craven younger brother, Sir Oliver is soon lashed to the oars as a galley slave. But destiny has greater things in store. This big-budget, high-seas epic about an English baronet’s transformation into notorious corsair Sakr-el-Bahr is based on the novel by Rafael Sabatini (*Scaramouche, Captain Blood*) and directed by Frank Lloyd (*The Divine Lady, Mutiny on the Bounty*) who insisted on shooting with real ships in the actual ocean.

Musical accompaniment by Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra

FRIDAY APRIL 12

THE OPPORTUNIST

11:00 AM \$18/\$16

Original Language Title: SHKURNYK

Directed by Mykola Shpykovskyy | Soviet Ukraine, 1929 | 77 m.

With Ivan Sadovskyy, Luka Liashenko, Dora Feller, Dmytro Kapka

A small-time black-marketeer loath to shed his capitalist ways tries to work the chaos of the Bolshevik takeover to his advantage. Hilariously insightful about ordinary people and the politically overzealous, it was naturally banned by Soviet apparatchiks.

Musical accompaniment by Utsav Lal

EAST SIDE, WEST SIDE

1:00 PM \$20/\$18

Directed by Allan Dwan | US, 1927 | 88 m.

With George O’Brien, Virginia Valli, J. Farrell MacDonald

Street thugs, scrappy immigrants, uptown swells, and a keen Irish bargeman who wants a better life for himself. Allan Dwan’s love letter to New York makes stops at the city’s storied spots, packing in all the color and verve of the place that by the ‘20s had already burnished its own mythology as somewhere anyone with a lot of grit and a bit of luck could rise from its bustling slums to its spacious drawing rooms.

Musical accompaniment by Wayne Barker

POIL DE CAROTTE

3:15 PM \$20/\$18

Directed by Julien Duvivier | France, 1925 | 125 m.

With André Heuzé, Henry Krauss, Charlotte Barbier-Krauss

Based on Jules Renard’s autobiographical novel, *Poil de Carotte* is a child’s-eye view of a dysfunctional family set in a provincial French village where gossip reigns. Dubbed Carrot Top for his red hair and freckles, François is unloved by his mother and neglected by his father. Director Duvivier’s (*Pépé le Moko*) elegant use of special effects and color enhance this affecting, bittersweet tale.

Musical accompaniment by Stephen Horne and Frank Bockius



POKER FACES

6:00 PM \$20/\$18

Directed by Harry A. Pollard | US, 1926 | 83 m.

With Edward Everett Horton, Laura La Plante, George Siegmann

This delicious parlor room farce about a husband posing with a woman not his wife to get in good with his boss loudly echoes into the television living rooms of Rob Petrie and Darrin “Durwood” Stephens. Double-take maestro Edward Everett Horton is paired with Laura La Plante who matches his expressive dexterity scene by scene, demonstrating why she was one of Universal’s most valued stars.

Musical accompaniment by the Guenter Buchwald Quartet



HÄXAN

8:15 PM \$25/\$23

Directed by Benjamin Christensen | Sweden, 1922 | 106 m.

With Maren Pedersen, Tora Teje, Benjamin Christensen

Benjamin Christensen’s spectacle-laden masterwork transcends genre to trace the evolution of witchcraft from its pagan roots to the psychoanalyst’s couch. Ultimately a denunciation of witch-hunt hysteria, *Häxan* is a technical marvel, rife with lurid images of satanic orgies, sadomasochistic priests, and possessed nuns.

Musical accompaniment by the Matti Bye Ensemble

SATURDAY APRIL 13

THE LAUREL & HARDY SHOW

10:00 AM \$18/\$16

The Boys are back—and just as bent on destruction as ever in these three recently restored side-splitters from 1928:

***You’re Darn Tootin’, Two Tars,* and**

***The Finishing Touch.* Don’t miss this**

splendid program featuring the

hilarious duo author Kurt Vonnegut

called “two angels of my time.”

Musical accompaniment by

Donald Sosin and Frank Bockius



HELL'S HEROES

12:00 NOON \$20/\$18

Directed by William Wyler | US, 1929 | 64 m.

With Charles Bickford, Raymond Hatton, Fred Kohler

The oft-filmed story of three bad men suffering the ravages of hell to save an orphaned infant gets perhaps its most eloquent iteration in this late silent-era version by a director on the cusp of a great career. Shot under grueling conditions in the Mojave, *Hell’s Heroes* was also released as a sound film and made an impression as both.

Musical accompaniment by the Guenter Buchwald Trio



I WAS BORN, BUT...

2:00 PM \$20/\$18

Original Language Title: UMARETE WA MITA KEREDO

Directed by Yasujiro Ozu | Japan, 1932 | 100 m.

With Tatsuo Saito, Tomio Aoki, Mitsuko Yoshikawa, Hideo Sugawara

Two precocious young brothers jockey for position in the pecking order of their new neighborhood while at the same time having to adjust to an unsettling truth about their father’s less than exalted place in the wider world. Warm, funny, yet tinged with melancholy, it augurs many Ozu masterworks to come.

Musical accompaniment by Utsav Lal

👉 **The 2024 SFSFF Award for commitment to the preservation and presentation of silent cinema will be presented to Hisashi Okajima at this screening.**

THE STREET

5:00 PM \$20/\$18

Original Language Title: DIE STRASSE

Directed by Karl Grune | Germany, 1923 | 79 m.

With Eugen Klöpfer, Aud Egede, Leonhard Haskel, Hans Trautner, Max Schreck

The film that lent its name to an entire German genre is Karl Grune’s landmark contribution to cinema’s decoupling from stage-bound drama. An Expressionist-style city built entirely in the studio becomes the setting for a grim warning about succumbing to temptations of the urban night, and fraught milieu of the first Strassenfilm. Watch for *Nosferatu*’s Max Schreck in an allegorical subplot about a blind man who loses track of a young child on these same perilous streets.

Musical accompaniment by Guenter Buchwald and Frank Bockius

SHERLOCK JR.

7:00 PM \$25/\$23

Directed by Buster Keaton | US, 1924 | 47 m. (70 m. total program)

With Buster Keaton, Kathryn McGuire, Ward Crane, Ford West

A lovelorn projectionist-slash-janitor dreams himself into the movies as a debonair, crack detective, but to get the girl in either realm he must unmask his unworthy rival. Keaton melds the magic of vaudeville with the magic of the movie camera for what is essentially one long gasp-inducing chase to the finish. Preceded by Keaton’s first solo comedy short, *One Week* (1920).

Musical accompaniment by Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra

THE JOKER

8:45 PM \$20/\$18

Original Language Title: JOKEREN

Directed by Georg Jacoby | Denmark, 1928 | 101 m.

With Henry Edwards, Miles Mander, Elga Brink, Renée Héribel

Nordisk’s lavish last hurrah before the Danish studio went bust is a sparkling comedy of intrigues featuring an all-star European cast led by English actors Henry Edwards and Miles Mander. Under the cover of Nice’s carnival festivities, a sleazy lawyer blackmails a noblewoman with a cache of indiscreet love letters, but the suave confidence man of the title has a thing for the lady’s attractive sister and sets his own plan in motion.

Musical accompaniment by Stephen Horne and Frank Bockius

SUNDAY APRIL 14

THE GORILLA

10:00 AM \$18/\$16

Directed by Alfred Santell | US, 1927 | 95 m.

With Charlie Murray, Fred Kelsey, Alice Day, Walter Pidgeon

When a hard-nosed detective and his bumbling sidekick arrive at a crime scene to investigate the murder of a miserly millionaire, they encounter a mansionful of the usual suspects. Recently found at the Cineteca Milano, this entry in the Old Dark House genre boasts as much humor as horror and inspired two sound remakes and a host of imitations.

Musical accompaniment by Stephen Horne and Frank Bockius

THE KID BROTHER

12:15 PM \$20/\$18

Directed by Ted Wilde | US, 1927 | 82 m.

With Harold Lloyd, Jobyna Ralston, Ralph Yearsley

Harold Lloyd is the black sheep in a family of burly men and responsible for all the “woman’s work” on the farm. When a medicine show—and a pretty girl—come to town, he finally gets to prove his manly mettle, never surrendering an iota of his gosh darn sweetness.

Musical accompaniment by Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra

THE PHANTOM CARRIAGE

2:30 PM \$20/\$18

Original Language Title: KÖRKARLEN

Directed by Victor Sjöström | Sweden, 1921 | 106 m.

With Victor Sjöström, Hilda Borgström, Astrid Holm, Tore Svennberg

A husband and father in the grip of a terrible addiction is shown the error of his ways during a midnight ride with the grim reaper. A tour-de-force of nonlinear storytelling and a showcase of deft in-camera double-exposures, Sjöström’s drama about redeeming the unredeemable is part of the film canon for good reason and has influenced filmmakers from Ingmar Bergman to Stanley Kubrick.

Musical accompaniment by the Matti Bye Ensemble



THE DEVIOUS PATH

5:00 PM \$20/\$18

Original Language Title: ABWEGE

Directed by G.W. Pabst | Germany, 1928 | 107 m.

With Brigitte Helm, Gustav Diessi, Hertha von Walther, Jack Trevor

Beautiful, rich, and married, Brigitte Helm is restless. When she’s offered entry into a glamorous demimonde, she defies her controlling husband and leaps in. For this portrait of a marriage under strain, the acclaimed Austrian director applies his incisive eye for telling detail to the performances as well as to the shimmery world of sophisticated amusements.

Musical accompaniment by Guenter Buchwald and Frank Bockius



THE RED MARK

8:00 PM \$25/\$23

Directed by James Cruze | US, 1928 | 80 m.

With Gaston Glass, Nina Quartero, Gustav von Seyffertitz

A pickpocket has finally earned his release from the South Seas penal colony ruled with calculated cruelty by Monsieur De Nou, but Bibi Ri won’t return to Paris without his girl. When De Nou, known for dispatching all problems via guillotine, claims her as his own, only one terrible outcome seems possible. Stunning photography, potent compositions, and a chilling performance by Gustav von Seyffertitz as the mercilessly corrupt governor make this recently restored jewel a must-see—even before the dramatic plot twist.

Musical accompaniment by Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra

