

WEDNESDAY MAY 6



QUEEN KELLY

7:00 PM \$30/\$25 OPENING NIGHT PRESENTATION

Directed by **Erich von Stroheim** | US, 1929 | 105 m.

With **Gloria Swanson, Walter Byron, Serena Owen, Tully Marshall**

The late silent-era masterpiece that never was and the last major production entrusted to Erich von Stroheim has been reconstructed from surviving footage by Milestone Films. Bearing all the Stroheim hallmarks—lush visuals, meticulous attention to every detail, and rank corruption at every level of society—it’s also a showcase for Gloria Swanson who runs an emotional gamut from innocent convent girl to hardened brothel keeper.

Musical accompaniment by Eli Denson conducting the **San Francisco Conservatory of Music Orchestra**

THURSDAY MAY 7

AMAZING TALES FROM THE ARCHIVES

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

THE ABYSS and THE CLOWN

3:00 PM \$20/\$18

THE ABYSS Original Language Title: AFGRUNDEN

Directed by **Urban Gad** | Denmark, 1910 | 38 m.

With **Asta Nielsen, Paul Reumert, Robert Dinesen**

THE CLOWN Original Language Title: KLOVNNEN

Directed by **A.W. Sandberg** | Denmark, 1917 | 62 m. (100 m. total program)

With **Valdemar Psilander, Peter Fjelstrup, Amanda Lund**

Two Danish sensations, one at the beginning of her career, the other at his end. First, Asta Nielsen’s prim piano teacher in *The Abyss* is driven by lust to the circus stage faster than her gyrating Spider Dance from this film made her a star. Next, matinee idol Valdemar Psilander’s sad circus performer in *The Clown* hits the big time only for success to lead to his ruin in what turned out to be the actor’s last production before his sudden death at age 32.

Musical accompaniment by Stephen Horne and Mas Koga

SENSATION IM WINTERGARTEN

5:30 PM \$20/\$18

Directed by **Gennaro Righelli** | Germany, 1929 | 102 m.

With **Paul Richter, Claire Rommer, Erna Morena, Gaston Jacquet**

When celebrated trapeze artist Frattani returns home on his triumphant world tour, he must finally face his gold-digging stepfather who deprived him of his rightful title, his inheritance, and the love of his own mother years before. Dramatic set-pieces and colorful backstage atmosphere are partly filmed at Berlin’s storied Wintergarten.

Musical accompaniment by Guenter Buchwald and Frank Bockius



MISS LULU BETT

8:00 PM \$25/\$23

Directed by **William de Mille** | US, 1921 | 80 m.

With **Lois Wilson, Milton Sills, Theodore Roberts, Helen Ferguson**

Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by women’s rights champion Zona Gale about an acquiescent young woman callously exploited by her own family, *Miss Lulu Bett* was called “one of the finest adaptations in the history of the photoplay” by *Motion Picture News*. Restored from a nitrate print, this marks the first in a dedicated run of collaborations between director William de Mille and scriptwriter Clara Beranger.

Musical accompaniment by Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra

FRIDAY MAY 8

HIGH TREASON

11:00 AM \$20/\$18

Directed by **Maurice Elvey** | UK, 1929 | 75 m.

With **Benita Hume, Jameson Thomas, Basil Gill, Humberston Wright**

The future brings aeroplanes, videochat boxes, and apparently the same headgear across genders, but all the gadgetry in the world cannot save humankind from its destructive self as it teeters on the brink of war after a terrorist act. *High Treason* simultaneously looks back to Fritz Lang’s *Metropolis* and forward to Michael Radford’s 1984 but what this prescient piece of science fiction grasps on its own is that the fate of nations can pivot on the act of a single person.

Musical accompaniment by Stephen Horne and Frank Bockius

THE WHITE TRAIL

1:00 PM \$20/\$18

Original Language Title: BIAŁY ŚLAD

Directed by **Adam Krzeptowski** | Poland, 1932 | 74 m.

With **Andrzej Krzeptowski, Janina Fischer, Stanislaw Gasienica-Sieczka**

A handheld camera puts you breathtakingly close to the action on the snowy slopes of the Polish Tatras in this feature film debut from photographer and native highlander Adam Krzeptowski. Real-life ski champions populate the cast and its script was contributed by local artist Rafał Malczewski, who was well-acquainted with the beauty and hazards of these landscapes having served as part of the Tatra Volunteer Search and Rescue during World War I.

Musical accompaniment by Guenter Buchwald



HULA

3:00 PM \$20/\$18

Directed by **Victor Fleming** | US, 1927 | 65 m.

With **Clara Bow, Clive Brook, Arlette Marchal**

Growing up a tomboy on her family’s Hawaiian ranch, wild child Hula Calhoun is as comfortable eating with her hands as she is on horseback. Then she falls head over heels—with a married man. In her second collaboration with director Victor Fleming Clara Bow lights up every frame she’s in, demonstrating again that, yes, she’s a natural but also a real pro.

Musical accompaniment by Stephen Horne

JAPANESE PAPER FILM PROJECT

5:00 PM \$20/\$18

Japan, 1930s | 65 m.

Animal Olympics, a train excursion through the countryside, a brawl with an octopus, and belly-drumming raccoon-dogs are just a few of the delights of these recently preserved kami firumu. Faced with the influx of ever slicker imported animation in the 1930s Japan went low-tech, printing films on paper strips. The Project worked with Japanese museums, film archives, and individual collectors to digitize and preserve more than 200 surviving films from which this selection was taken.

Musical accompaniment by Duo Yumeno

THE CAVEMAN

7:00 PM \$25/\$23

Directed by **Lewis Milestone** | US, 1926 | 76 m.

With **Marie Prevost, Matt Moore, Phyllis Haver, Myrna Loy, Hedda Hopper**

Myra the heiress is bored. What else to do but grab a he-man from the tenements and pass him off as a professor? This gender-reversed Pygmalion is one of three comedies made by Marie Prevost with director Lewis Milestone who knew that sometimes all you need to get a laugh is the right camera position—and the devil’s favorite coquette in a starring role. With Matt Moore as a hilarious fish-out-of-water coalheaver and Myrna Loy as the wary maid.

Musical accompaniment by Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra

TABU: A STORY OF THE SOUTH SEAS

8:45 PM \$20/\$18

Directed by **F.W. Murnau** | US, 1931 | 85 m.

With **Matahi, Reri, Hitu, Jean, Jules, Kong Ah**

At the top of his artistic game, the director who had perfected the artifice of cinematic atmospheres abandoned the studio and its harrying producers to make a movie en plein air. Working with nonprofessional actors and a skeleton crew that included documentarian Robert Flaherty, F.W. Murnau spent more than a year and all his money in the South Sea Islands for what turned out to be his last film.

Musical accompaniment by Wayne Barker and Mas Koga

SATURDAY MAY 9

LAUREL & HARDY THEIR SILENT BEST

10:00 AM \$20/\$18

Whether it’s a truckful of pies, a suburban home, a motorcar, or their pants, there’s only one possible outcome when these two virtuosos focus their powers of destruction on a prop: audiences destroyed by laughter. With *The Battle of the Century*, *The Finishing Touch*, *Liberty*, and *Big Business*.

Musical accompaniment by Wayne Barker and Frank Bockius



THE HUMMING BIRD

12:00 NOON \$20/\$18

Directed by **Sidney Olcott** | US, 1924 | 60 m.

With **Gloria Swanson, Edmund Burns, William Ricciardi, Cesare Gravina**

(Mostly) shedding her clotheshorse image, Gloria Swanson is convincing as the head of a gang of Parisian toughs who sets out to stymie an American reporter’s investigation into a spate of neighborhood robberies. First love, then duty intervenes.

Veteran director Sidney Olcott leads a team that kits out Paramount’s Astoria studio into a convincing Montmartre.

Musical accompaniment by Wayne Barker

JANKO THE MUSICIAN

2:00 PM \$20/\$18

Original Language Title: JANKO MUZYKANT

Directed by **Ryszard Ordyński** | Poland, 1930 | 105 m

With **Stefan Rogulski, Witold Conti, Maria Malika, Aleksander Zabczynski**

In the original story, a classic of Polish literature, a musical prodigy born into poverty meets only tragedy. In this screen adaptation from the late silent era, he’s allowed to thrive. Beautifully photographed by Zbigniew Gniazdowski, the film’s resulting lyricism spurred one critic to write: “[This] visual symphony resonates with poetry.”

Musical accompaniment by Guenter Buchwald, Mas Koga, Frank Bockius

☛ The 2026 SFSFF Award for commitment to the preservation and presentation of silent cinema will be presented to Elżbieta Wysocka at this screening.

BED AND SOFA

4:45 PM \$20/\$18

Original Language Title: TRETYA MESCHANSKAYA

Directed by **Abram Room** | USSR, 1927 | 91 m

With **Nikolai Batalov, Lyudmila Semyonova, Vladimir Fogel**

The housing shortages plaguing the ten-year-old Communist government instigate the plot in this thoroughly modern Soviet silent classic about a married couple who must find a new design for living after the husband’s former Red Army buddy comes to stay. Among the Bolsheviks’ early promises of land, peace, and bread was also the promise of a new social order that would make comrades of all Russians, including its women.

Musical accompaniment by Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra



HIS GREATEST BLUFF

7:00 PM \$25/\$23

Original Language Title: SEIN GRÖßTER BLUFF

Directed by **Harry Piel** | Germany, 1927 | 108 m

With **Harry Piel, Albert Paulig, Marlene Dietrich, Fritz Greiner**

Harry Piel knew how to entertain an audience. Jewels worth a million, a shady dame (and her very sus child), a pair of maharajahs, crooks with colorful names, and a self-assured action hero do the trick. That Marlene Dietrich is the dame is just icing for this heist picture from one of Germany’s most consistent box-office draws.

Musical accompaniment by Guenter Buchwald and Frank Bockius

À PROPOS DE NICE and RIEN QUE LES HEURES

9:30 PM \$20/\$18

À PROPOS DE NICE, d. Jean Vigo and Boris Kaufman | France, 1930 | 25 m

RIEN QUE LES HEURES, d. Alberto Cavalcanti | France, 1926 | 46 m (71 m total)

Two debuts announce the arrival of two fresh voices of the motion picture avant-garde.

While dazzling with daring compositions and inventive editing, first-time directors Jean Vigo (working with Dziga Vertov’s brother Boris Kaufman) and Alberto Cavalcanti reveal what can get obscured behind polished photographic surfaces in these city symphonies from Nice and Paris.

Musical accompaniment by Stephen Horne and Frank Bockius

SUNDAY MAY 10

BLAZING DAYS

11:00 AM \$20/\$18

Directed by **William Wyler** | US, 1927 | 60 m

With **Fred Humes, Ena Gregory, Churchill Ross, Bruce Gordon, Eva Thatcher**

This William Wyler-directed western displays the young director’s burgeoning talent, with camera flourishes and character touches that elevate an otherwise familiar story about a payroll box gone missing in the hinterlands. Cowboy star Fred Humes’s beaming smile and humbleswagger on horseback only add to its pleasures.

Musical accompaniment by Wayne Barker

BOOKKEEPER KREMKE

1:00 PM \$20/\$18

Original Language Title: LOHNBUCHHALTER KREMKE

Directed by **Marie M. Harder** | Germany, 1930 | 60 m

With **Hermann Valentini, Anna Sten, Ivan Koval-Samborski**

“Problems of our time come alive shaking us to our core,” wrote the reviewer for *Lichtbild-Bühne* who was deeply impressed with the only fiction feature completed by director Marie Harder, head of the Social Democrat Party’s film service. Ukrainian-born Anna Sten makes her German cinema debut as a daughter coming into her own despite the fury of her tradition-bound father suddenly downsized from middle-class respectability.

Musical accompaniment by Guenter Buchwald and Frank Bockius



SO THIS IS PARIS

3:00 PM \$20/\$18

Directed by **Ernst Lubitsch** | US, 1926 | 68 m

With **Monte Blue, Patsy Ruth Miller, André Beranger, Lilyan Tashman**

Paris and its Jazz Age temptations provide the saucy backdrop of this confection about the near infidelities of two married couples. A tonic for any age, Lubitsch’s last film for the Warners bears no visible marks of the contentious behind-the-scenes relationship the director had with the Bros. who were apparently immune to his charms. We guarantee you won’t be. “Lubitsch,” raved the *New York American*, “has done it again.”

Musical accompaniment by Stephen Horne and Frank Bockius

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

5:00 PM \$20/\$18

Original Language Title: DIE GEZEICHNETEN

Directed by **Carl Th. Dreyer** | Germany, 1922 | 99 m

With **Vladimir Gajdarov, Polina Piekowskaja, Richard Boleslawski**

A cynical tsarist agent sews suspicion among peasants about Jews trying to replace them in order to weaken the revolutionary fervor gaining strength in the cities. Meanwhile one young woman from the shtetl just wants a say in her fate. Carl Dreyer’s moving depiction of anti-Semitism’s sinister harms, both macro and micro, is a silent-era rarity, yet typical in the care the director takes to attain a harrowing authenticity.

Musical accompaniment by Guenter Buchwald, Mas Koga, Sascha Jacobsen



THE CROWD

7:30 PM \$25/\$23

Directed by **King Vidor** | US, 1928 | 102 m

With **James Murray, Eleanor Boardman, Bert Roach**

In the film that influenced everyone from Orson Welles and Vittorio de Sica to Yasujiro Ozu and the makers of *Mad Men*, John Sims struggles to reconcile the greatness he expects from his life with the pedestrian way it turns out. Deftly combining documentary style shooting with the kind of artifice only possible with the latest studio technology, King Vidor dissects the American dream in this incontestable masterpiece of silent cinema.

Musical accompaniment by Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra