



PHOTOPLAY PRODUCTIONS

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Photoplay Productions is a **world leader in silent film restoration and film-history documentaries**. Under the direction of **Kevin Brownlow and Patrick Stanbury** it is one of the few independent companies to operate in this field and has been credited with the revival of interest in the lost art of silent movies.

Photoplay's reputation has developed over twenty years, starting with Kevin Brownlow and David Gill's documentary *Hollywood – the Pioneers*, which brought the glories of the silent screen to a television audience. The meticulous research that characterised *Hollywood* underpins all Photoplay's documentaries, their most recent being *Garbo* and *I'm King Kong* for Turner Classic Movies. Photoplay's catalogue of film restorations now exceeds 35 titles ranging from epics to comedies. As well as managing this unique film archive, Photoplay holds an archive specialising in production stills from the silent era and interviews with veterans of the silent screen.

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COMEDY

BUSTER KEATON

The General 1926 directed by **Buster Keaton** and **Clyde Bruckman**

Keaton's comedy masterpiece set during the Civil War

A print made directly from the original negative

Score by Carl Davis (32 players)

Total running time: 76 minutes

Special projection requirements: variable speed

Aperture: Full

Our Hospitality 1924 directed by **Buster Keaton** and **John Blystone**

Buster is embroiled in a family feud

Tinted print

Score by Carl Davis (18 players)

Total running time: 74 minutes

Special projection requirements: variable speed

Aperture: Full

One Week 1920 directed by **Buster Keaton** and **Eddie Cline**

Keaton's first independent comedy - a miniature masterpiece

Score by Carl Davis (30 players)

Total running time: 22 minutes

Special projection requirements: variable speed

Aperture: Full

HARRY LANGDON

The Strong Man 1926 directed by **Frank Capra**

A lovelorn Belgian soldier in small town America

A print made directly from the original negative

Score by Carl Davis (13 players)

Total running time: 76 minutes

Aperture: Full

ROMANTIC COMEDY

It 1927 directed by **Clarence Badger**

starring Clara Bow

The film that launched 'The It Girl'

Score by Carl Davis (15 players)

Total running time: 75 minutes

Special projection requirements: variable speed

Aperture: Sound Academy

Show People 1928 directed by **King Vidor**

starring Marion Davies and William Haines

Affectionate parody of Hollywood in the 1920's

Score by Carl Davis (30 players)

Total running time: 79 minutes

Aperture: Full

ROMANCE

Old Heidelberg 1927 directed by **Ernst Lubitsch**
starring Ramon Novarro and Norma Shearer
Lavish and poignant version of The Student Prince
Complete with tinted sequences
Score by Carl Davis (43 players)
Total running time: 105 minutes
Special projection requirements: variable speed
Aperture: Full

Sunrise 1927 directed by **F W Murnau**
starring Janet Gaynor and George O'Brien
Murnau's song of two humans'
Original score by Hugo Riesenfeld reconstructed by Nic Raine
Total running time: 91 minutes
Special projection requirements: variable speed
Aperture: Movietone

GRETA GARBO

Flesh and the Devil 1926 directed by **Clarence Brown**
with Greta Garbo and John Gilbert
Garbo and Gilbert fell in love on screen and off
Score by Carl Davis (60 players)
Total running time: 112 minutes
Special projection requirements: variable speed
Aperture: Full

The Mysterious Lady 1928 directed by **Fred Niblo**
starring Greta Garbo and Conrad Nagel
Garbo as supreme seductress
Score by Carl Davis (69 players)
Total running time: 81 minutes
Aperture: Full

A Woman of Affairs 1928 directed by **Clarence Brown**
starring Greta Garbo and John Gilbert
Garbo at her most tragic
Score by Carl Davis (18 players)
Total running time: 97 minutes
Special projection requirements: variable speed
Aperture: Full

extract from The Divine Woman 1928 directed by **Victor Seastrom**
The only surviving sequence of a lost film
Score by Carl Davis based on 'The March of the Foreign Legion' (61 players)
Total running time: 9 minutes
Aperture: Full

DRAMA

The Blot 1921 directed by **Lois Weber**
starring Claire Windsor and Louis Calhern
Middle class poverty in 1920's America
available in 16mm only
Score by Jim Parker
Total running time: 89 minutes

The Crowd 1928 directed by **King Vidor**
starring Eleanor Boardman and James Murray
An ordinary man's struggle to keep up with the crowd
Score by Carl Davis (45 players)
Total running time: 103 minutes
Special projection requirements: variable speed
Aperture: Movietone

La Terre 1919 directed by **André Antoine**
starring Germaine Rouer and Armand Bour
Zola's tragic novel of the French countryside
available with French titles only
Score by Adrian Johnson
Total running time: 98 minutes
Aperture: Full

The Yellow Ticket 1918 directed by **Victor Jansen**
Starring Pola Negri
A Jewish girl's struggle in Russia
Total running time: 50 minutes
Special projection requirements:
Aperture: Full

The Godless Girl 1928 directed by **Cecil B DeMille**
A dramatic exposé of the brutal conditions in reform schools – prisons for juveniles.
Black and white print with tinted sequence.
Restored from DeMille's personal nitrate print by George Eastman House.
Score by Carl Davis (32 players)
Total running time: 118 mins plus interval
Aperture: Sound Academy

LILLIAN GISH

Broken Blossoms 1919 directed by D W Griffith
with Richard Barthelmess
The first 'art' film. Griffith's evocation of London's brutal East End
Original score by Louis F Gottschalk arranged by Carl Davis (31 players)
Total running time: 90 mins
Special projection requirements: variable speed
Aperture: Full

The Wind 1928 directed by **Victor Seastrom**

with Lars Hanson

Gish's greatest performance as a frail, naïve city girl in the tough Texan landscape

Score by Carl Davis (37 players)

Total running time: 78 minutes

Special projection requirements: variable speed

Aperture: Movietone

ERICH VON STROHEIM

Greed 1924 directed by **Erich Von Stroheim**

with ZaSu Pitts and Gibson Gowland

A tragedy of jealousy and obsession spanning from San Francisco to Death Valley

Score by Carl Davis (23 players)

Total running time: 131 minutes plus interval

Special projection requirements: variable speed

Aperture: Full

Limited availability, please consult Photoplay

The Wedding March 1928 starring **Erich von Stroheim**

with Fay Wray

Bitter sweet romance between a prince and an innkeeper's daughter

A restored print complete with Technicolor sequence

Score created by Carl Davis from music of the Viennese Masters (49 players)

Total running time: 109 minutes

Aperture: Full

ADVENTURE

DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS

The Iron Mask 1929 directed by **Allan Dwan**

The final adventures of the Three Musketeers and Fairbanks' last silent film

Fully restored, including two speeches by Fairbanks

Score by Carl Davis (48 players)

Total running time: 104 mins plus interval

Special projection requirements: variable speed and Dolby Digital Sound

Aperture: Full

The Thief of Bagdad 1924 directed by **Raoul Walsh**

An oriental extravaganza and the highpoint of Fairbanks' glittering career

Tinted print

Score created by Carl Davis from music of Rimsky-Korsakov (70 players)

Total running time: 146 minutes plus interval

Special projection requirements: variable speed

Aperture: Full

* see Lupino Lane comedy **Sword Points** p.11

RUDOLPH VALENTINO

The Eagle 1925 directed by **Clarence Brown**
with Vilma Banky
A Russian aristocrat seeks revenge for his father's death
Valentino shows his talent for comedy
A print made directly from the original negative
Score by Carl Davis (42 players)
Total running time: 77 minutes
Special projection requirements: variable speed
Aperture: Full

EPICS

BIBLICAL

Ben-Hur 1925 directed by **Fred Niblo**
starring Ramon Novarro
The silent era's most lavish and expensive production
'It isn't a picture. It's the Bible', said Variety
Fully restored with Technicolor sequences and all the original tints
Score by Carl Davis (69 players)
Total running time: 141 minutes plus interval
Special projection requirements: variable speed
Aperture: Movietone

Intolerance 1916 directed by **D W Griffith**
Griffith combined four stories in an epic amalgam of epochs and ideas
A tinted print
Score by Carl Davis (61 players)
Total running time: 165 minutes plus interval
Special projection requirements: variable speed and three-bladed shutter

WORLD WAR 1

The Big Parade 1925 directed by **King Vidor**
starring John Gilbert and Renee Adoree
An American conscript on the battlefields of France – an epic but honest war picture
Score by Carl Davis (45 players)
Total running time: 138 minutes plus interval
Special projection requirements: variable speed
Aperture: Movietone

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse 1921 directed by **Rex Ingram**
starring Rudolph Valentino and Alice Terry
The film that launched Valentino's career, a tumultuous epic of World War I
Fully restored tinted print including one shot in Prizma Color
Score by Carl Davis (45 players)
Total running time: 132 minutes plus interval
Special projection requirements: variable speed
Aperture: special plate required

Wings 1927 directed by **William Wellman**.
starring Clara Bow, Richard Arlen and Buddy Rogers
even by modern standards the flying sequences are spectacular
Tinted print
Score by Carl Davis (45 players)
Total running time: 139 minutes plus interval
Aperture: Full

HISTORICAL

The Birth of a Nation 1915 directed by **D W Griffith**
starring Lillian Gish and Henry B Walthall
The American Civil War and Reconstruction provide the setting for the most controversial film ever made
A print copied in colour from a tinted nitrate original
Original score by Joseph Breil adapted and arranged by John Lanchbery (52 players)
Total running time: 191 minutes plus interval
Special projection requirements: variable speed and three-bladed shutter
Aperture: Full

The Chess Player 1926 directed by **Raymond Bernard**
starring Pierre Blanchar and Edith Jehanne
The Imperial Russian court is outwitted by Baron Von Kemplen's mechanical marvels
Fully restored tinted print
Original score by Henri Rabaud
Total running time: 134 minutes plus interval
Special projection requirements: variable speed
Aperture: Full

The Iron Horse 1924 directed by **John Ford**
starring George O'Brien and Madge Bellamy
Ford's first epic western restages the construction of the trans-continental railway
Excellent tinted print
Score by John Lanchbery (50 players)
Total running time: 132 minutes plus interval
Special projection requirements: variable speed
Aperture: Full

Napoleon 1927 directed by **Abel Gance**
starring Albert Dieudonne
Bonaparte, the Revolution that catapulted him to power, the campaign that led him to glory
A new tinted print
Score by Carl Davis (46 players)
Total running time: 332 minutes plus three intervals
Special projection requirements: variable speed, triptych finale requires three 35mm projectors in interlock or one 70mm machine
Aperture: Full
[Limited availability due to rights issues]

Orphans of the Storm 1921 directed by **D W Griffith**

Starring Lillian and Dorothy Gish

Two sisters search for each other in 18th century Paris. Tragedy and romance against the backdrop of the Revolution and under the shadow of the guillotine. Griffith's last great epic

A tinted print

Score by John Lanchbery (55 players)

Total running time: 154 minutes plus interval

Special projection requirements: variable speed

Aperture: Sound Academy

HORROR

The Cat and the Canary 1927 directed by **Paul Leni**

The first old-dark-house thriller with an expressionist twist

Score by Neil Brand (11 players plus Theremin)

Total running time: 80 mins

Special projection requirements: variable speed

Aperture: Full

Nosferatu 1922 directed by **F W Murnau**

Murnau's medieval evocation of Dracula, with occult imagery and an unforgettable vampire

Restored tinted print with titles remade in English to the original design

Score by James Bernard (70 players)

Total running time: 88 minutes

Special projection requirements: variable speed

Aperture: Full

The Phantom of the Opera 1925 directed by **Rupert Julian**

Lon Chaney -the first and finest version of this timeless classic

Restored tinted print with Technicolor sequences

Score by Carl Davis (48 players)

Total running time: 89 minutes

Special projection requirements: variable speed

Aperture: Movietone

SHORTS AND FILMS WITHOUT MUSICAL SCORES

The Adventures of Dollie 1908 directed by **D W Griffith**

A girl is kidnapped by gypsies. Griffith's very first film

Total running time: 12 minutes

Special projection requirements: variable speed and three-bladed shutter

Aperture: Full

The Extra Girl 1923 directed by **F. Richard Jones**

Starring Mabel Normand and Ralph Graves

Normand plays a village film fan mistakenly invited to Hollywood in this comedy

Total approximate running time: 66 minutes

Special projection requirements: variable speed

Aperture: Full

Get Out and Get Under 1920 directed by **Hal Roach**

Harold Lloyd gets a new car

Total running time: 24 minutes

Special projection requirements: variable speed

Aperture: Full

Giving them Fits 1915 directed by **Hal Roach**

One of Harold Lloyd's earliest surviving films

Total running time: 10 minutes

Special projection requirements: variable speed

Aperture: Full

Hard Luck 1921 directed by **Buster Keaton** and **Eddie Kline**

A suicidal Buster takes up armadillo hunting

Total running time: 23 minutes

Special projection requirements: variable speed

Aperture: Full

Heart O' the Hills 1919 directed by **Sidney Franklin**

starring Mary Pickford and John Gilbert

'America's Sweetheart' as a tough mountain girl

Tinted print

Total running time: 77 minutes

Special projection requirements: variable speed

Aperture: Full

Mare Nostrum 1926 directed by **Rex Ingram**

Starring Alice Terry and Antonio Moreno

First World War spy story inspired by Mata Hari

Tinted print

Total running time: 111 minutes

Special projection requirements: variable speed

Aperture: Full

Sword Points 1928 directed by **Mark Sandrich**
starring Lupino Lane
Lane's spoof of a Douglas Fairbanks swashbuckler
Total running time: 16 minutes
Aperture: Full

An Unseen Enemy 1912 directed by **D W Griffith**
starring Lillian and Dorothy Gish
Early suspense picture in which the sisters are trapped by a gunman
Score by Carl Davis (3 players)
Total running time: 16 minutes
Special projection requirements: variable speed
Aperture: Full

The Wicked Darling 1919 directed by **Tod Browning**
with Lon Chaney and Priscilla Dean
A realistic crime melodrama. The first collaboration between Browning and Chaney
Tinted print
Total approximate running time: 63 minutes
Special projection requirements: variable speed
Aperture: Full

DOCUMENTARIES

(all the listed documentaries are available in BETA SP or DIGIBETA)

D.W.Griffith - Father Of Film - 1993

A pictorial biography of the man who turned the cinema from an amusement into and art.
Written, produced and directed by Kevin Brownlow and David Gill
Running times: 3 episodes of 52 mins each

Lon Chaney – A Thousand Faces - 2000

A star who took acting to extremes and immortalised
the Hunchback of Notre Dame and the Phantom of the Opera.
Produced by Patrick Stanbury, directed by Kevin Brownlow
Running Time: 85mins

The Tramp And The Dictator - 2001

*A portrait of Chaplin and Hitler - born in the same
week of the same month of the same year, and who,
at least in public, closely resembled each other.*
Produced by Patrick Stanbury, directed by Kevin Brownlow and Michael Kloft
Running Time: 55mins

Cecil B DeMille – American Epic - 2003

*The man who invented Hollywood and became a
byword for Biblical spectacle was actually much more versatile.*
Produced by Patrick Stanbury and directed by Kevin Brownlow
Running Time: 117mins

So Funny It Hurt – Buster Keaton And MGM - 2004

Buster Keaton was at the peak of his powers when his producer sold him to MGM - his career never recovered.

Produced by Patrick Stanbury

Directed by Kevin Brownlow and Christopher Bird

Running Time: 38mins

Garbo - 2005

The greatest actress in movie history recalled by those who knew her. Made with the co-operation of the Garbo family for her centenary.

Produced by Patrick Stanbury

Directed by Kevin Brownlow and Christopher Bird

Running Time: 85mins

I'm King Kong! The exploits of Merian C Cooper - 2005

The incredibly dramatic life of Merian C Cooper, aviator, adventurer, film-maker. The man who made KING KONG.

Produced by Patrick Stanbury

Directed by Kevin Brownlow and Christopher Bird

Running Time: 55mins

The Charm of Dynamite – 1968

The early career of Abel Gance, director of NAPOLEON (1927) and once France's greatest director.

Written, produced and directed by Kevin Brownlow

Running Time: 52mins