



# 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.10

## 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 1*  
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 18<sup>th</sup> 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