

First Stories: Early Film Narratives, 1901-1913

Monday, September 16, 2013 ~ Northwest Film Forum ~ Co-presented by The Sprocket Society

This Evening's Program is dedicated to Otto "Mitch" Mattson.

With gratitude and bon voyage to Adam Sekuler, departing Program Director, Northwest Film Forum.

All of tonight's films are shown from 16mm prints. Some run at differing speeds; in order to accommodate such adjustments, there may be an extra pause now and again. All but one of this evening's prints are silent; musical accompaniments are recordings selected for this program from a variety of sources. The sole exception is *A Trip to the Moon*, which has its own musical soundtrack (artist unknown). Our projector this evening is a theatrical-grade Eiki EX-6000, with a 1,000 watt Xenon lamp.

Tonight's Selection of Films

Fire! (1901)

Williamson Kinematograph Co. (Britain)
Directed by James A. Williamson
Filmed in Hove, England
Released October 15, 1901

Cast: May Clark (Nursemaid), Blair (Rover), Cecil M. Hepworth (Father), Mrs Hepworth (Mother), Barbara Hepworth (baby), Sebastian Smith (soldier), Mrs Sebastian Smith (beggar woman)

A Trip to the Moon (1902)

Originally: *La Voyage dans la Lune*
Star Films (France)
Directed by Georges Méliès
Filmed at Méliès' glass-house studio in Montreuil, a suburb of Paris
First released September 1, 1902. USA release: October 4, 1902.

A Corner in Wheat (1909)

Biograph Company
Directed by D.W. Griffith
Photographed by G.W. Bitzer
Based on the short story "A Deal in Wheat" and the novel *The Octopus*, both by Frank Norris
Cast: Frank Powell (The Wheat King), Grace Henderson (The Wheat King's Wife), James Kirkwood (Farmer), W. Chrystie Miller (Farmer's Wife), Gladys Egan (Farmer's Little Daughter), Henry B. Walthall (Wheat King's Assistant)

The Great Train Robbery (1904)

Siegmund Lubin (USA)
Director Siegmund Lubin [?]
Photographed by Jack Frawley [?]
"Remake" of Edwin S. Porter's 1903 original.
Filmed in and around Philadelphia, PA.
Copyrighted June 27, 1904

Under the Stars and Bars (1910)

Star Film Co. (San Antonio, TX, USA)
Directed by Gaston Méliès / William Haddock.
Photographed by William Daly ("Daddy") Paley.
Released October 27, 1910
Cast: Francis Ford, Edith Storey (?)

Rounding Up of the 'Yeggmen' (1904)

Photographed by Edwin S. Porter
Filmed Aug. 15 – Sept. 10, 1904 in New York City and South Orange, NJ
Copyrighted Sept. 16, 1904

The Street Arab of Paris (1910)

USA version. Originally *La reconnaissance de l'Arabe*
Société Française des Films Éclair (France)
Directed by Georges Hatot & Victorin-Hippolyte Jasset
Cast: André Luguet, Maurice Luguet, Suzanne Relda, Marcel Dupré, Fernand Liesse

Rescued by Rover (1905)

Hepworth Manufacturing Co. (Britain)
Directed by Lewin Fitzhamon
Released July 3, 1905
USA release: August 19, 1905

The Battle of Elderbush Gulch (1913)

Biograph Company

Directed by D.W. Griffith

Released November, 1913

Cast: Mae Marsh (Sally Cameron), Leslie Loveridge (The Waif), Alfred Paget (The Waif's Uncle), Robert Harron (The Father), Lillian Gish (Melissa Harlow), Charles Hill Mailes (Ranch Owner), William A. Carroll (The Mexican), Frank Opperman (The Indian Chief), Henry B. Walthall (The Indian Chief's Son), Joseph McDermott (The Waifs' Guardian), Jennie Lee (The Waifs' Guardian); with appearances by Lionel Barrymore and Harry Carey

Suggested Reading

Kemp Niver, ed. by Bebe Bergsten, *Early Motion Pictures: The Paper Print Collection in the Library of Congress* (Library of Congress, 1985) – A thorough catalog of said films, with details and synopses for each. A revised and expanded version of 1967 catalog compiled by Bergsten.

Richard Abel, *The Ciné Goes to Town: French Cinema, 1896-1914* (University of California Press, 1996; updated & expanded edition, 1998)

Richard Abel, ed., *Encyclopedia of Early Cinema* (Routledge, 2005, 2010) – Excellent reference work edited by one of the top silent film scholars.

Stephen Herbert & Luke McKernan (eds.), *Who's Who of Victorian Cinema: A Worldwide Survey* (British Film Institute, 1996) – An absolutely essential and invaluable work. Now out-of-print, its content (plus some additional material) can be found for free online at <http://www.victorian-cinema.net/>

Charles Musser, *Before the Nickelodeon: Edwin S. Porter and the Edison Manufacturing Company* (University of California Press, 1991) – Out of print, but available in full online via the publisher at <http://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft3q2nb2gw&brand=ucpress>

Charles Musser, *The Emergence of Cinema: The American Screen to 1907* (University of California Press, 1990). Volume 1 of the History of the American Cinema series.

Eileen Bowser, *The Transformation of Cinema, 1907-1915* (University of California Press, 1990). Volume 2 of the History of the American Cinema series.

Frank Thompson, *The Star Film Ranch: Texas' First Picture Show* (Republic of Texas Press, 1996) – A very rare detailed history of Gaston Méliès' US branch of the Star Films Company.

Matthew Solomon, ed., *Fantastic Voyages of the Cinematic Imagination: Georges Méliès' Trip to the Moon* (SUNY Press, 2011) – Anthology of scholarship surrounding the film. Comes with DVD.

Before Hollywood: Turn-of-the-Century Film from American Archives (The American Federation of Arts, 1986) – Heavily illustrated catalog for a six-program exhibition of early films. Includes the original program notes, plus essays by Jay Leyda, John L. Fell, Charles Musser, and others.

Lee Grieveson & Peter Krämer, eds., *The Silent Cinema Reader* (Routledge, 2004) – A fine and wide-ranging anthology covering the entire silent era, mostly including previously-published essays and excerpts from books by notable film scholars.

Richard Schickel, *D.W. Griffith: An American Life* (Simon and Schuster, 1984) – The current standard bio.

Media History Digital Library – Early Cinema Collection (1903-1928), online at <http://mediahistoryproject.org/earlycinema/> and searchable via <http://lantern.mediahist.org/> – An outstanding and truly essential archive of early trade publications which can be browsed online or downloaded as PDFs.

Richard Koszarski ed., *Fort Lee: The Film Town* (John Libbey Publishing, 2004) – A remarkable book about the “East Coast Hollywood” of the nickelodeon era, assembling press accounts, anecdotes, rare photos, and ephemera.



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Monday, Sept. 16 7:00 PM

Northwest Film Forum

1515 12th Avenue ~ Capitol Hill, Seattle, WA ~ co-presented by The Sprocket Society