

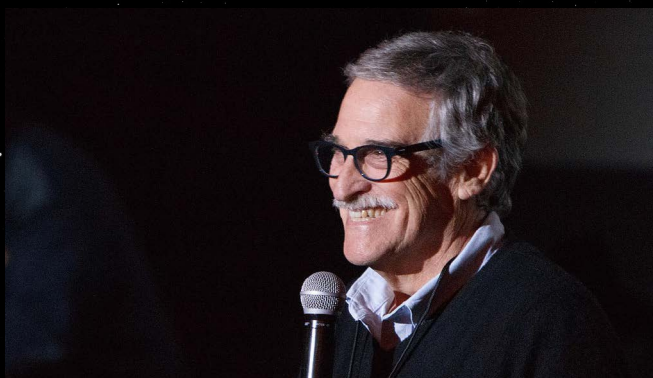


Silents are Golden



SEPTEMBER
12—14
2025





A MESSAGE FROM Howie Movshovitz

DSFF CO-FOUNDER
& DIRECTOR

"Every film in this year's Denver Silent Film Festival is exciting, and each one for different reasons. The festival opens with a rousing Douglas Fairbanks adventure picture and ends with the alluring, transgressive Louise Brooks. In the middle, David Shepard awardee Maggie Hennefeld will present a program of (to many of us) unknown early women comics – they're hilarious, and as Hennefeld says, 'nasty'."



The David Shepard Career Achievement Award

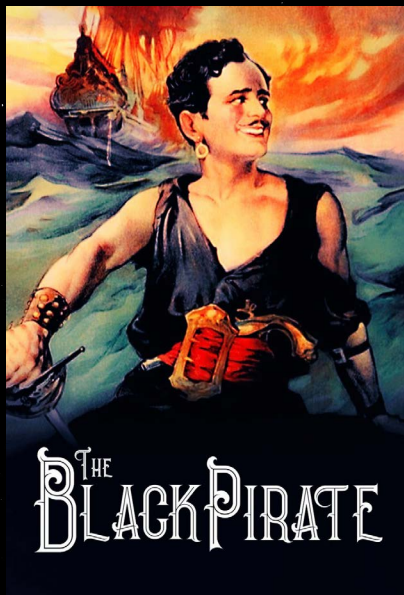
"The David Shepard Career Achievement Award this year will be given to Maggie Hennefeld, a wonderful, engaging film scholar at the University of Minnesota. She has done remarkable work making known and available many delightful and surprising films by early women comics." – Howie Movshovitz

Maggie Hennefeld is Professor of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She is the author of the award-winning book, "Specters of Slapstick and Silent Film Comediennes" and a curator of the Kino Lorber silent film collection "Cinema's First Nasty Women".

Maggie will be receiving the award at our Opening Night screening of – **THE BLACK PIRATE** – on Friday, September 12th at 7pm. She will also be presenting the screening of **CINEMA'S FIRST NASTY WOMEN: QUEENS OF DESTRUCTION** on Saturday, September 13th at 6pm.

DENVER SILENT FILM FESTIVAL

Opening Night



THE BLACK PIRATE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 | 7PM

A young man (Douglas Fairbanks) becomes a pirate as he seeks to avenge the killing of his father. In his too-short prime, Fairbanks (born at 14th and Franklin in Denver) is an acrobatic, enthusiastic, generous performer – the first action hero and always a delight to see.

Closing Night



THE DIARY OF A LOST GIRL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 | 5:15 PM

Louise Brooks was far less than the international phenomenon she became when she first arrived in Germany in 1926 to make the scandalous Pandora's Box with Pabst. Diary mounted another serious attack on bourgeois German morality with its story of a young girl raped, and sent to a morally rigid "reform school" from which she escapes and eventually works in a brothel before finding a way to rise in social standing.

MEET THE MUSICIANS



THE MONT ALTO MOTION PICTURE ORCHESTRA

Under the leadership of composer and accompanist Rodney Sauer, the five-piece Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra is world renowned. Mont Alto plays regularly at The Telluride Film Festival and San Francisco Silent Film Festival.



RODNEY SAUER

Rodney Sauer discovered a large archive of "photoplay music" at the University of Colorado and began using this music to compile silent film scores for small orchestras. His Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra is now globally recognized for its high-quality film score compilations.



HANK TROY

Hank Troy, a renowned jazz pianist and silent film accompanist, has been a key part of the Denver Silent Film Festival since its inception. He served as Music Director at The Telluride Film Festival for 25 years and helped start the summer silent film series at Boulder Chautauqua.



TENIA NELSON

Tenia is a LifeForce Jazz Records artist, pianist, percussionist, composer, arranger, and educator. She co-leads a well-known Denver-based jazz group, Spherio, which focuses on arranging and playing the music of Thelonious Sphere Monk and also leads the Tenia Nelson Trio.

MEET THE MUSICIANS



namebackwards

Enmanuel Alexander's solo live-looping project, "namebackwards," defies the norms of instrumental music, weaving emotionally moving soundscapes and hypnotic grooves that evoke a sense of blissful nostalgia. Enmanuel works to create a platform for underrepresented voices in the Denver music scene.



PERC ENS

Perc Ens is a minimalism percussion ensemble and performs intense, often-acoustic compositions and improvisations. Their live performance has many iterations, including perchance marimba, lights, drum set, hand percussion, sermon, or toy piano, all played to showcase the variety of melody, rhythm, and timbre.



THE DOLLHOUSE THIEVES

The Dollhouse Thieves, a Denver-based project led by Niki and Luke Tredinnick, blend neo-rock with indie-folk, featuring jazz-influenced vocals and unique instruments like accordion, clarinet, and trombone. The band members have over a decade of experience performing and writing together.





SCHEDULE OVERVIEW



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

7PM OPENING NIGHT: THE BLACK PIRATE
Live score by The Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

10AM THE DUMB GIRL OF PORTICI
Live score by namebackwards

1PM FILIBUS, THE MYSTERIOUS AIR PILOT
Live score by Hank Troy

3:15PM SILENT COMEDY SHORTS PROGRAM
Live score by The Dollhouse Thieves

6PM CINEMA'S FIRST NASTY WOMEN:
QUEENS OF DISTRUCTION
Live score by Hank Troy
Introduced by David Shepard award recipient Maggie Hennefeld

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

10AM THE SALVATION HUNTERS
Live score by Perc Ens

12:15PM THE ADVENTURES OF PRINCE ACHMED
Live score by Tenia Nelson

2:30PM BLIND HUSBANDS
Live score by Hank Troy

5:15PM CLOSING NIGHT: DIARY OF A LOST GIRL
Live score by Rodney Sauer

A-Z FILM GUIDE



THE ADVENTURES OF PRINCE ACHMED

*Dir: Lotte Reiniger / 1926 /
Germany / 66min*

 *Live score by Tenia Nelson*

SUNDAY, SEP 14 | 12:15PM

In this of the earliest surviving animated films, a handsome prince rides a flying horse to faraway lands and embarks on magical adventures, which include battling demons and falling in love with a princess.



THE BLACK PIRATE

*Dir: Albert Parker / 1926 /
USA / 88min*

 *Live score by The Mont Alto
Motion Picture Orchestra*

FRIDAY, SEP 12 | 7PM

A young man (Fairbanks) becomes a pirate as he seeks to avenge the killing of his father. In his too-short prime, Fairbanks (born at 14th and Franklin in Denver) is an acrobatic, enthusiastic, generous performer – the first action hero and always a delight to see.

A-Z FILM GUIDE



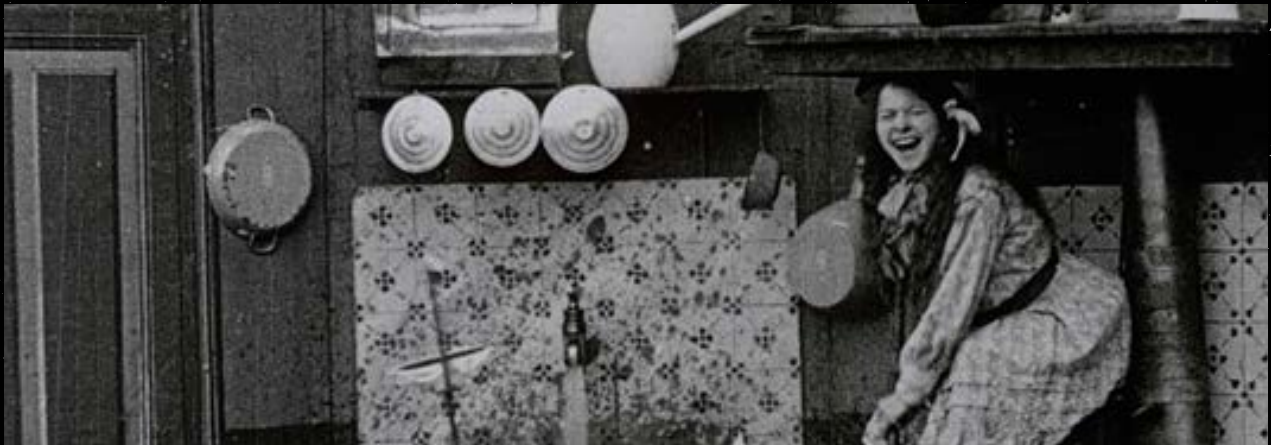
BLIND HUSBANDS

Dir: Erich von Stroheim / 1919 /
USA / 91min

🎵 Live score by Hank Troy

SUNDAY, SEP 14 | 2:30PM

An Austrian military officer and roué attempts to seduce the wife of a surgeon. The two men confront each other in a test of abilities that ends surprisingly.



CINEMA'S FIRST NASTY WOMEN: QUEENS OF DESTRUCTION

92min

🎵 Live score by
Hank Troy



Introduced by David Shepard
award recipient Maggie Hennefeld

SATURDAY, SEP 13 | 6PM

In this package of rarely-seen silent films about feminist protest, slapstick rebellion, and suggestive gender play, these women organize labor strikes, bake (and weaponize) inedible desserts, and assume a range of identities that gleefully dismantle traditional gender norms and sexual constraints.

A-Z FILM GUIDE



DIARY OF A LOST GIRL

Dir. G.W. Pabst / 1929 / Germany / 119min

🎵 Live score by Rodney Sauer

SUNDAY, SEP 14 | 5:15PM

After falling pregnant by a pharmacist and refusing to marry, a young woman (Louise Brooks) is ejected from her home and sent to a strict girls' reform school.



THE DUMB GIRL OF PORTICI

Dirs. Lois Weber and Phillips Smalley / 1916 / USA / 112min

🎵 Live score namebackwards

SATURDAY, SEP 13 | 10AM

Fenella, a poor Italian girl, falls in love with a Spanish nobleman, but their affair triggers a revolution and national catastrophe.

A-Z FILM GUIDE



FILIBUS, THE MYSTERIOUS AIR PILOT

Dir. Mario Marcoroni
/ 1915 / Italy / 76min



Live score by Hank Troy

SATURDAY, SEP 13 | 1PM

In this high flying adventure, Skypirate Filibus commits robberies from her airship, while a dedicated detective attempts to put a stop to it.



In partnership with **SWANSON HILL MUSIC**

THE SALVATION HUNTERS

Dir. Josef von Sternberg
/ 1925 / USA / 70min



Live score Perc Ens

SUNDAY, SEP 14 | 10AM

Down on the docks where dredge workers toil, a young man, a girl, and an orphan boy seek escape to a better life.

A-Z FILM GUIDE



SILENT COMEDY SHORTS PROGRAM

94min

 Live score by The
Dollhouse Thieves



SATURDAY, SEP 13 | 3:15PM

*Humor abounds in this delightful collection of comedic silent shorts including Laurel and Hardy in **THE TWO TARS**, Charley Chase in **HIS WOODEN WEDDING**, the hilarious **PASS THE GRAVY**, and Chaplin's great **THE IMMIGRANT**.*

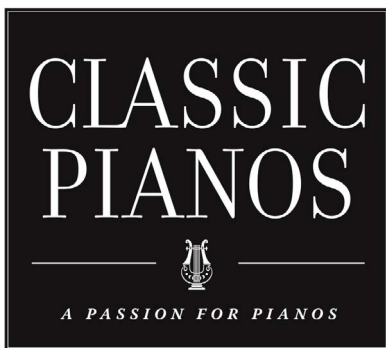
TICKETING

	NON-MEMBER	MEMBER
GENERAL ADMISSION	\$16	\$13
SILENT FILM FESTIVAL PASS	\$85	\$75
STUDENTS	\$5	FREE
AVAILABLE AT BOX OFFICE W/ VALID ID ONLY		

In order to make the Festival more accessible, screenings with this symbol have a Pay-What-You-Can option at checkout, with a \$5 minimum.



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