

**THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART CELEBRATES THE LEGENDARY FILMS
OF DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS**

Laugh and Live: The Films of Douglas Fairbanks
December 17–January 31, 2009
The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters

New York, December 4, 2008—The Museum of Modern Art celebrates the classic films of Douglas Fairbanks (1883-1939) with a 20-film exhibition that highlights the all-American actor's adventurous, swashbuckling career. Bringing together such Hollywood favorites as *The Gaucho* (1928), *The Mark of Zorro* (1920), *The Three Musketeers* (1921), and *Mr. Robinson Crusoe* (1932), the 20-film exhibition will be screened from December 17, 2008, through January 31, 2009, in The Roy and Niuta Titus theaters. *Laugh and Live* takes its title from Fairbanks's 1917 book of the same name, in which he promoted his optimistic outlook as the key to happiness and success. It also marks the 70th anniversary of MoMA's acquisition of the Douglas Fairbanks Collection, which contains approximately twenty of his independently produced features, as well as numerous reels of home movies featuring himself and his wife, Mary Pickford, taken at Pickfair and on various trips abroad.

The series is organized by Steven Higgins, Curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art.

Jeffrey Vance, author of *Douglas Fairbanks* (University of California Press & Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, 2008), will introduce the opening night screening of *The Gaucho* on December 17.

Born in Santa Monica, California, Douglas Fairbanks was a 35-year-old veteran of live theater when he made his first films in 1915 for D.W. Griffith's Fine Arts studio. There, he created the character of "Doug," a breezy, all-American go-getter who seemed to move effortlessly through life and across the screen. He left the following year and began working independently, eventually becoming one of the founders of United Artists in 1919. The following year, with the release of *The Mark of Zorro*, he moved into the production of big-budget costume films, averaging one a year for the rest of the 1920s.

Even before he attained the status of a Hollywood icon, Fairbanks was an excellent athlete who performed most of his stunts in such films as *The Mollycoddle* (1920), *Robin Hood* (1923), and *The Iron Mask* (1929).

His career overlapped with that of his son, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., who followed in his father's footsteps and became a legendary leading man in such films as *Stella Dallas* (1925) and *The Prisoner of Zenda* (1937).

Press Contact: Margaret Doyle, (212) 408-6400, margaret_doyle@moma.org

For downloadable images, please visit www.moma.org/press

Public Information:

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019
The public may call 212/708-9400 for detailed Museum information.
Visit us on the Web at www.moma.org

Admission: Admission to film screenings is free with Museum admission (\$20 adults; \$16 seniors, **65 years and over with I.D.; \$12 full-time students with current I.D. Free, members and children 16 and under**). **Admission is free for Museum members, and during Target Free Friday Nights 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.**

Film only: \$10 adults; \$8 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D. \$6 full-time students with current I.D. Admission is free for Museum members, and during Target Free Friday Nights 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Holiday Hours:

December 24: 10:30 to 3:00 (Christmas Eve)
December 25: Museum closed (Christmas Day)
December 26: 9:30 to 8:00 (Target Free Friday Night 4-8 p.m.)
December 27-January 1: 9:30 to 6:30
January 2: 9:30 to 8:00 (Target Free Friday Night 4-8 p.m.)
January 3-5: 9:30 to 6:30

MoMA Monday Nights:

MoMA will remain open until 8:45 p.m. on selected Mondays, giving visitors extended hours to view special exhibitions and the museum's collection. The evenings will include entertainment and a cash bar. Regular admission applies.

The museum will stay open from 10:30 to 8:45 on the following Mondays:

December 8
January 12
February 9
March 9
April 6
May 4
June 8

SCREENING SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 17

6:00 *The Gaucho*. 1928. USA. Directed by F. Richard Jones. Screenplay by Lotta Woods. With Douglas Fairbanks, Lupe Velez, Gustav von Seyffertitz. Fairbanks portrays The Gaucho, a Robin Hood-like outlaw who protects a holy shrine from the machinations of a greedy aristocrat. Preserved with funding from the Celeste Bartos Film Preservation Fund. Silent, with piano accompaniment. Approx. 120 min. **Introduced by Jeffrey Vance.**

Thursday, December 18

8:00 *The Mark of Zorro*. 1920. USA. Directed by Fred Niblo. Screenplay by Eugene Miller, from the story "The Curse of Capistrano" by Johnston McCulley. With Douglas Fairbanks, Marguerite de la Motte, Robert McKim, Noah Beery.
In Fairbanks's first full costume drama, he takes on two roles: the foppish Don Diego Vega, and his alter ego Zorro, the mysterious champion of the oppressed. Restored with funding from The Film Foundation and the Celeste Bartos Film Preservation Fund. Silent, with piano accompaniment. Approx. 97 min.

Friday, December 19

4:30 *A Modern Musketeer*. 1917. USA. Written and directed by Allan Dwan. With Douglas Fairbanks, Marjorie Daw, Tully Marshall.
Ned Thacker (Fairbanks) is the very soul of chivalry. Traveling west in search of adventure, he finds it in the plight of a young woman traveling with her designing mother and elderly suitor. Recently restored by the Museum and the Danish Film Institute from nitrate materials in both institutions' collections, with funding from the Celeste Bartos Film Preservation Fund. Silent, with piano accompaniment.
Approx. 60 min.

Saturday, December 20

12:00 *Wild and Woolly*. 1917. USA. Directed by John Emerson. Screenplay by Anita Loos. With Douglas Fairbanks, Eileen Percy, Walter Bytell.
Fairbanks plays Jeff Hillington, a young urbanite whose romantic ideas of the West come from dime novels and the movies. When he arrives in the town of Bitter Creek, he encounters the real West of 1917. Restored with funding from The National Film Preservation Foundation and The Film Foundation. Silent, with piano accompaniment.
Approx. 60 min.

Monday, December 22

6:00 *When the Clouds Roll By*. 1919. USA. Directed by Victor Fleming. Screenplay by Thomas Geraghty. With Douglas Fairbanks, Kathleen Clifford, Herbert Grimwood. Wealthy young bachelor Daniel Boone Brown (Fairbanks) allows a quack psychologist to influence his romantic pursuit of a beautiful Greenwich Village artist. Silent, with piano accompaniment. Approx. 86 min.

8:00 *The Mollycoddle*. 1920. USA. Directed by Victor Fleming. Screenplay by Thomas Geraghty. With Douglas Fairbanks, Wallace Beery, Ruth Renick, Betty Bouton. American-born Richard Marshall (Fairbanks) was raised abroad, without any firsthand experience of his native land. But when he pursues diamond smugglers all the way to the desert of the American Southwest, his patriotism (and courage) are reborn. Restored with funding from The National Film Preservation Foundation and The Film Foundation. Silent, with piano accompaniment. Approx. 85 min.

Saturday, December 27

12:30 *The Mark of Zorro*. See Thursday, December 18, 8:00.

2:30 *Don Q, Son of Zorro*. 1925. USA. Directed by Donald Crisp. Screenplay by Jack Cunningham, Lotta Woods. With Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Astor, Donald Crisp, Warner Oland.
Native Californian Don Q returns to his ancestral home of Spain in order to clear himself of a false murder charge. Fairbanks appears as both the title character and his father, Zorro.

Preserved with funding from the Celeste Bartos Film Preservation Fund. Silent, with piano accompaniment. Approx. 110 min.

Sunday, December 28

2:00 *The Gaucho*. See Wednesday, December 17, 6:00.

5:00 *Wild and Woolly*. See Saturday, December 20, 12:00.

Monday, December 29

6:00 *A Modern Musketeer*. See Friday, December 19, 4:30.

7:30 *When the Clouds Roll By*. See Monday, December 22, 6:00.

Tuesday, December 30

5:00 *The Mollycoddle*. See Monday, December 22, 8:00.

7:00 *Don Q, Son of Zorro*. See Saturday, December 27, 2:30.

Thursday, January 1

4:30 *Reaching for the Moon*. 1931. USA. Written and directed by Edmund Goulding. Additional dialogue by Elsie Janis. Songs by Irving Berlin. With Douglas Fairbanks, Bebe Daniels, Edward Everett Horton, Jack Mulhall. Fairbanks plays Larry Day, a Wall Street broker in pursuit of the beautiful aviatrix who has captured his heart. Preserved with funding from Celeste Bartos. 90 min.

6:30 *The Three Musketeers*. 1921. USA. Directed by Fred Niblo. Screenplay by Lotta Woods, Edward Knoblock, based on the novel by Alexandre Dumas. With Douglas Fairbanks, Marguerite de la Motte, Leon Bary, George Siegmann, Eugene Pallette. Fairbanks portrays Dumas's swashbuckling hero D'Artagnan in an adventure set in France during the time of Louis XII and his chief minister, Cardinal Richelieu. Silent, with piano accompaniment. Approx. 157 min.

Friday, January 2

3:00 *Reaching for the Moon*. See Thursday, January 1, 4:30.

5:00 *Mr. Robinson Crusoe*. 1932. USA. Directed by Edward Sutherland. Screenplay by Thomas Geraghty, from a story by Elton Thomas (pseud. Douglas Fairbanks). With Fairbanks, William Farnum, Earle Browne, Maria Alba. Steve Drexel (Fairbanks) plunges from his yacht and swims to a nearby desert island to prove to his friends that he is a modern Robinson Crusoe, capable of surviving using only his wits. Preserved with funding from Celeste Bartos. 71 min.

Saturday, January 3

1:00 *Mr. Robinson Crusoe*. See Friday, January 2, 5:00.

- 5:00** *In Again, Out Again.* 1917. USA. Directed by John Emerson. Screenplay by Anita Loos. With Douglas Fairbanks, Arline Pretty, Walter Walker, Arnold Lucey. Teddy Rutherford (Fairbanks), who has fallen for the sheriff's daughter, needs to get inside the jail to help catch a saboteur who is blowing up munitions factories—so he does his best to get himself arrested. Silent, with piano accompaniment. Approx. 78 min.
- 6:45** *The Nut.* 1921. USA. Directed by Theodore Reed. Screenplay by William Parker, Lotta Woods. With Douglas Fairbanks, Marguerite de la Motte, William Lowery, Gerald Pring. Charlie Jackson (Fairbanks) is engaged to a woman who seems to care more for underprivileged children than she does for him. To win her attention, the young Greenwich Villager tries to interest leading New York philanthropists in her work. Silent, with piano accompaniment. Approx. 85 min.
- 8:30** *The Private Life of Don Juan.* 1934. Great Britain. Directed by Alexander Korda. Screenplay by Frederick Linsdale, Lajos Biro. With Douglas Fairbanks, Merle Oberon, Binnie Barnes, Melville Cooper. In his final film, Fairbanks portrays the world-famous lover in his sunset years. 83 min.

Sunday, January 4

- 1:00** *Flirting with Fate.* 1916. USA. Directed by W. Christy Cabanne. Screenplay by Robert M. Baker. With Douglas Fairbanks, Howard Gaye, Jewel Carmen, George Beranger. Penniless artist Augie Holliday (Fairbanks) falls in love with a society girl (Carmen). When her aunt blocks their marriage, he decides to kill himself and hires Automatic Joe (Beranger) to do the job for him. But then Augie changes his mind....Silent, with piano accompaniment. Approx. 56 min.
- 2:15** *The Three Musketeers.* See Thursday, January 1, 6:30.
- 5:30** *Down to Earth.* 1917. USA. Directed by John Emerson. Screenplay by Emerson, Anita Loos. With Douglas Fairbanks, Eileen Percy, Gustav von Seyffertitz, Bull Montana. Billy Gaynor (Fairbanks) takes control of a sanitarium in order to cure the wealthy patients of their neuroses. Among them is Ethel Forsythe (Percy), the girl he intends to marry. Silent, with piano accompaniment. Approx. 75 min.

Monday, January 5

- 5:30** *The Mystery of the Leaping Fish.* 1916. USA. Directed by John Emerson. With Douglas Fairbanks, Bessie Love, Alma Reubens. Master detective Coke Ennydey (Fairbanks) breaks up a drug smuggling ring. Approx. 24 min.
- American Aristocracy.* 1916. USA. Directed by Lloyd Ingraham. Screenplay by Anita Loos. With Douglas Fairbanks, Jewel Carmen, Charles de Lima, Albert Parker. Fairbanks stars as Cassius Lee, an amateur entomologist who stumbles into international intrigue at the exclusive summer resort of Narraport-by-the-Sea when he discovers that the Malted Milk King is supplying gunpowder to Mexican revolutionaries. Both films silent, with piano accompaniment. Approx. 55 min.
- 8:15** *The Thief of Bagdad.* 1924. USA. Directed by Raoul Walsh. Screenplay by Elton Thomas (pseud. Douglas Fairbanks), Lotta Woods. With Fairbanks, Snitz Edwards, Julianne Johnston, Anna May Wong. Lavish fantasy fills the screen as Fairbanks portrays the legendary thief who wins the heart of a beautiful princess. Silent, with piano accompaniment. Approx. 145 min.

Wednesday, January 7

5:00 *Flirting with Fate*. See Sunday, January 4, 1:00.

8:00 *Robin Hood*. 1923. USA. Directed by Allan Dwan. Screenplay by Elton Thomas (pseud. Douglas Fairbanks), Lotta Woods. With Fairbanks, Wallace Beery, Sam De Grasse, Enid Bennett.
Medieval spectacle and thrilling action sequences combine as Fairbanks takes on the role of Robin Hood, the popular folk hero who saves England from the tyranny of Prince John, treacherous brother of Richard the Lionhearted. Silent, with piano accompaniment. Approx. 131 min.

Thursday, January 8

7:15 *In Again, Out Again*. See Saturday, January 3, 5:00.

8:00 *Down to Earth*. See Sunday, January 4, 5:30.

Friday, January 9

4:30 *The Taming of the Shrew*. Directed by Sam Taylor. Screenplay by Taylor, from the play by William Shakespeare. With Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, Edwin Maxwell, Joseph Cawthorn.
Fairbanks's first talking picture and his last American costume film, in which he fulfilled his longtime ambition to play Petruchio to Mary Pickford's Katharine. 65 min.

8:30 *The Iron Mask*. 1929. USA. Directed by Allan Dwan. Screenplay by Elton Thomas (pseud. Douglas Fairbanks), Lotta Woods, based on the works of Alexandre Dumas. With Fairbanks, Marguerite de la Motte, Belle Bennett, Dorothy Revier.
In this sequel to *The Three Musketeers*, Fairbanks reprises his role as D'Artagnan, who saves the French throne with the help of his comrades Athos, Porthos, and Aramis. Silent, with piano accompaniment. Approx. 96 min.

Saturday, January 10

12:30 *Robin Hood*. See Wednesday, January 7, 8:00.

3:15 *The Thief of Bagdad*. See Monday January 5, 8.15.

6:30 *The Taming of the Shrew*. See Friday, January 9, 4:30.

8:00 *The Mystery of the Leaping Fish*.
American Aristocracy. See Monday, January 5, 5:30.

Sunday, January 11

1:00 *The Nut*. See Saturday, January 3, 6:45.

5:00 *The Private Life of Don Juan*. See Saturday, January 3, 8:30.

Wednesday, January 14

4:30 *The Iron Mask*. See Friday, January 9, 8:30.