

# The Museum of Modern Art

## MoMA'S SILENT MOVIE WEEK RETURNS THIS SUMMER WITH SEVEN RECENT RESTORATIONS

### *Silent Movie Week 2024* Will Open with the New York Premiere of MoMA's Digital Restoration of Victor Sjöström's *The Wind* (1928) in MoMA's Sculpture Garden

NEW YORK, NY, June 3, 2024—The Museum of Modern Art announces the second annual presentation of **Silent Movie Week**, the summer series that brings seven recent silent film restorations to MoMA over the course of seven consecutive evenings, from July 31 through August 6, 2024. This year's presentation includes six New York restoration premieres, and opens with MoMA's recent digital restoration of Victor Sjöström's *The Wind* (1928), presented in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden (weather permitting). *Silent Movie Week 2024* is organized by Dave Kehr, Curator, Department of Film.

As a commercial medium, silent film lasted for only about 30 years, but those 30 years represented a creative explosion with few parallels in the art world. It's estimated that only 20 percent of the films made between 1895 and 1930 survive, and yet the work of preserving and restoring the remaining films continues. MoMA is one of several archives around the world with significant silent film holdings, and this annual series invites audiences to enjoy some of the recent restoration work done by MoMA and colleagues across the globe.

Widely regarded as one of the greatest achievements of silent cinema, Sjöström's *The Wind* presents a definitive silent film actor, Lillian Gish, in a powerful performance as a sheltered young woman from Virginia who is suddenly thrust into the infernal climate of the Texas panhandle, where a raw wind continually assaults the sparse human settlements that dot the arid landscape. This new digital restoration from The Museum of Modern Art is based on a pair of prints acquired by the Museum in the 1930s and is funded by the substantial grant Gish herself established for film preservation at MoMA.

This year's selection also includes two early-career Clara Bow rarities: the 1926 feature *Dancing Mothers* and the newly discovered 1923 comedy short *The Pill Pounder*. The legendary Louise Brooks stars in one of her best American films, Howard Hawks's 1928 *A Girl in Every Port*, presented in a vintage 35mm restoration from the George Eastman Museum. *Secrets* (1924) is another tragic melodrama from a master of the form, Frank Borzage, and stars Norma Talmadge. *The Gorilla* (1927) is a long-thought-lost old-dark-house thriller from director Alfred Santell, an early master of deep-space composition. From overseas come the 1929 British-German version of *The Informer*, directed in high Weimar style by Arthur Robison, and *Pêcheur d'Islande* (1924), Jacques de Baroncelli's haunting French tale of metaphysics on the high seas.

With the exception of *The Wind*, screenings will feature live musical accompaniment by musicians including Makia Matsumura, Ben Model, and Donald Sosin.

### **SCREENING SCHEDULE**

***All films are presented at 7:00 p.m. in the Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters, unless otherwise noted.***

***The Wind.*** 1928. USA. Directed by Victor Sjöström. Screenplay by Frances Marion. With Lillian Gish, Lars Hason, Montagu Love, Dorothy Cumming. Preserved and digitally restored by The Museum of Modern Art. With the original 1928 music and effects soundtrack. 95 min. New York restoration premiere.

Wednesday, July 31, sunset, The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden (weather permitting)

***A Girl in Every Port.*** 1928. USA. Directed by Howard Hawks. Screenplay by Hawks, James Kevin McGuinness, Seton I. Miller, Sidney Lanfield, Reggie Morris, Malcolm Stuart Boyland. With Victor McLaglaen, Louise Brooks, Robert Amrstrong, Maria Albra, Leila Hyams, Eileen Sedgwick, Natalie Kingston, Myrna Loy. 35mm print courtesy of the George Eastman Museum. 78 min. Musical accompaniment by Ben Model.

Thursday, August 1

***Secrets.*** 1924. USA. Directed by Frank Borzage. Screenplay by Rudolph Besier, May Eddington, Frances Marion. With Norma Talmadge, Eugene O'Brien, Claire McDowell. Digital restoration courtesy Cineteca di Bologna. 108 min. New York restoration premiere.

Musical accompaniment by Makia Matsumura.

Friday, August 2

***Dancing Mothers.*** 1926. USA. Directed by Herbert Brenon. Screenplay by Edmund Goulding, Forrest Halsey, Edgar Selwyn. With Conway Tearle, Alice Joyce, Clara Bow. Digital restoration courtesy San Francisco Silent Film Festival. 64 min. New York restoration premiere.

***The Pill Pounder.*** 1923. USA. Directed by Gregory La Cava. With Charles Murray, Clara Bow. Digital restoration courtesy San Francisco Silent Film Festival. 14 min. New York restoration premiere.

Musical accompaniment by Donal Sosin.

Saturday, August 3

***Pêcheur d'Islande (Iceland Fisherman).*** 1924. France. Directed by Jacques de Baroncelli. Screenplay by de Baroncelli, Pierre Loti. With Sanda Milovanoff, Charles Vanel,

Thomy Bourdelle. Digital restoration courtesy Film Preservation Associates/Blackhawk Films. 93 min. New York restoration premiere.  
Musical accompaniment by Makia Matsumura.  
Sunday, August 4

*The Gorilla*. 1927. USA. Directed by Alfred Santell. Screenplay by Al Boasberg, Alfred A. Cohn, Sidney Lazarus, Harry McArthur, Ralph Spence. With Charles Murray, Fred Kelsey, Walter Pidgeon, Claude Gillingwater, Tully Marshall. Digital restoration courtesy Cineteca di Milano. 80 min. New York restoration premiere.  
Musical accompaniment by Ben Model.  
Monday, August 5

*The Informer*. 1929. UK. Directed by Arthur Robison. Screenplay by Benn W. Levy, from the novel by Liam O'Flaherty. With Lya De Putti, Lars Hanson, Ellen Pollock. Digital restoration courtesy British Film Institute. 83 min. New York restoration premiere.  
Musical accompaniment by Donal Sosin.  
Tuesday, August 6

**SPONSORSHIP:**

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