

# ENCINITAS THEATRE CONSORTIUM

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*The Encinitas Theatre Consortium is a non-profit umbrella organization founded in 2008 to support and enhance the performing arts in Encinitas, California.*



## BUSTER KEATON & FRIENDS

### Encinitas Theater Consortium Announces 2010 Silent Film Festival

Back by popular demand. ETC's Silent Film Festival honoring Mary Pickford proved such a success, it returns this year featuring comedy great, Buster Keaton.

November 5-7, at the LaPaloma Theater in downtown Encinitas.

8 p.m. Friday: Steamboat Bill Jr. & Butcher Boy

8 p.m. Saturday: Sherlock Homes Jr. & Backstage

7 p.m. Sunday: Harold Lloyd, Fatty Arbuckle, Mabel Normand, Charlie Chaplin and others.

Live accompaniment: Robert Israel

Tickets: \$10.00  
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## Encinitas Theatre Consortium's 2010 Silent Film Festival

November 5 - 7, the historic LaPaloma Theatre will feature the silent film masterpieces of Buster Keaton and his contemporaries. A genius at physical comedy, Keaton was also a brilliant writer, director, actor and producer. He leaves behind a legacy of over 100 shorts and features.

Stoic, unconventional, and deeply committed to the purity of his work, Keaton, was also a true student, innovator and teacher of silent comedy. Raised in vaudeville, the twenty one year old Keaton's star rose faster than that of any of his peers. Some critics claim he became world famous faster than any film star ever. Keaton's ten year creative output, from 1919 until 1929, has been called by film critic Walter Kerr, "one of the greatest creative accomplishments of any actor director who ever lived." Over the years, Keaton's reputation as a filmmaker has continued to grow often eclipsing that of Chaplin for its scope, originality and technical virtuosity.

The Great Stone Face's acting has also been praised. Keaton eschewed the mugging and irrelevant gag bits offered by seasoned vaudeville comedians, preferring instead a more realistic approach. Like his most remembered contemporaries - Pickford, Chaplin and Lloyd, this small town boy believed in building a sympathetic character the audience could root for.

*Steamboat Bill Jr.* and *Sherlock Holmes Jr.* were chosen over other Keaton films (*The General*) because both features continue to be audience favorites. Both full lengths will be shown Friday and Saturday respectively along with *Butcher Boy*, Keaton's film debut and *Backstage*, a send up of his vaudeville years offering hilarious bits by several of its stars.

Sunday offers four shorts starring Keaton's frequent contemporaries and collaborators - true geniuses of their era all - Mabel Normand, Rosco Arbuckle, Harold Lloyd and Charlie Chaplin. *Fatty and Mabel at the San Diego Exposition*, *Lonesome Luke*, as well as two other features from the era will be shown.

Robert Israel, internationally acclaimed silent film composer and accompanist, will again provide live music. Israel's presence on stage playing on his baby grand, proved a huge hit with last year's audiences. So too did talks given by Silent Film Experts Hugh Munro Neely and Bob Birchard. This year's features will again be preceded by a brief introduction regarding the Silent Film industry. Additionally, efforts will be made throughout to offer the best restorations and cuts of these film treasures.

As if that weren't enough, Silent Film memorabilia will be shown in the lobby of the Encinitas Library. Talks will also be provided on the life of Buster Keaton and his collaborators. These talks are free.

Buster and friends in San Diego:

- As a child, Buster, his mother and father performed on the vaudeville stages of San Diego.
- Buster Keaton served out of Camp Kearny during World War I.
- Buster was arrested in San Diego while attempting to take his children to Mexico on a vacation during his and wife, Natalie Talmadge's, divorce proceedings.
- Keaton, Arbuckle and Lloyd occasionally used San Diego as background for their hundreds of shorts. *Fatty and Mabel at the San Diego Exposition*, a Keystone production, is but one example. Harold Lloyd was studying theatre in downtown San Diego when he decided to venture into silent film instead. Hal Roach and Harold Lloyd met on the set of *Patchwork Girl of Oz* in 1914.

## GALA RECEPTION

A wine and cheese reception honoring accompanist, Robert Israel, director Judith Montague, LaPaloma manager, Allen Largent and guest speakers will kick off the silent film festival. The gala will be held at 6 p.m. in the beautiful community room of the Encintias Library.