

The Friends of the Film Archive Inc. 2008 Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Film Archive will be held in the NZ Community Trust Mediatheatre NZ Film Archive, cnr Taranaki and Ghuznee Streets, Wellington on Thursday 21 August 2008, commencing at 6.00pm

(On conclusion of the Annual General Meeting at 7.00pm, there will be a Friends' sponsored film screening, *SPIN: Political Posturing, 1911 – 2000*)

The Agenda for the AGM is as follows:

Apologies
Minutes of 2007 Annual General Meeting
Any Matters Arising
President's Report
Financial Report
Film Archive Report
Elections (President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Members)
Confirmation of Honorary Auditor
General Business

David Jenkinson
Secretary

Apologies by e-mail to: steve.russell@nzfa.org.nz or telephone: (04) 384 7647

SCHEDULED FRIEND'S SCREENING FOR 2008



Monday, 11 August
at 6.15pm
Safety Last!
(USA, 1923 G cert)
Paramount Theatre,
Courtenay Place,
Wellington (note venue)
The Wellington Film Society invites Friends' members to join them for a rare screening of the classic Harold Lloyd comedy, *Safety Last!*.

With live piano accompaniment by Adrienne Roberts.

Wednesday, August 20 at 7.00pm
The Bush Cinderella (NZ, 1928)

More live cinema, at its best! The Film Archive and the Friends celebrate the 80th anniversary of the release of Rudall Hayward's popular feature, starring Miss New Zealand Dale Austen, "who combines Hollywood experience and technique with a faultless photographic face." — The Sun, 27 August 1928.

Thursday, August 21 at 7.00pm
SPIN: Political posturing, 1911 - 2000

An election year special, from the earliest soapbox electioneering by Labour candidate Mr McLaren in 1911 to contemporary footage of politicians. This programme includes a speech from Michael Joseph Savage, a 1949 National Party production condemning the evils of socialism, a newsreel heralding the 1954 Elections, made with a whimsical, rhyming commentary, a tipsy Sir Robert Muldoon announcing the 1984 snap election, and your "favourite" election campaign advertising...

Thursday, October 23 at 7.00pm

Canterbury Ham & Oysters on Toast: NZ culinary delights, 1927 - 1985

A programme of films looking at our food habits through the decades. The programme includes early advertising (for biscottes and fresh pak whipping cream) along with appearances from well known TV chefs Graham Kerr and Alison Holst.

Thursday, November 13 at 7.00pm

After the War Was Over

A screening programme that explores the various ways the Great War has been remembered and commemorated: ANZAC Day services, parades, memorials, personal pilgrimages to the battlefields, rehabilitation etc) with live accompaniment. Co-curated with Stephen Clarke, Historian, RSA and to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Armistice of 11 November 1918 and the end of the First World War.

Thursday, December 18 from 5.30pm

Friends Annual End of year Function

The renowned Victorian parlour art of the Magic Lantern, complete with extraordinary slides and sound effects presented by William Main.

All screenings in the NZ Community Trust Mediatheatre, Film Archive, cnr Taranaki & Ghuznee Streets, Wellington (unless otherwise indicated)

Still from *The Bush Cinderella*

SAFETY LAST! (1923)

Directors: Fred C. Newmeyer, Sam Taylor

Year: 1923

Running time: 73 mins

The spectacular stunts of the film are an enduring testament to Lloyd and his film collaborators. The scenes were created without modern special effects. The long shots of Lloyd's character during the building climb were performed by Bill Strother, the real-life "human fly" who inspired the film and costarred as Lloyd's roommate. Lloyd himself performed the medium-shots and close-ups (such as the famous clock sequence), which were staged on a series of facades built on the rooftops of buildings in downtown Los Angeles. The camera and sets were ingeniously positioned so that Lloyd appeared to be hanging above the streets. These stunts were still dangerous and demanding, especially since Lloyd was missing the thumb and forefinger on his right hand (due to a 1919 accident with a prop bomb), and wore a prosthetic glove. Lloyd reportedly dislocated his shoulder during the filming of the famous clock sequence. The effect was truly remarkable, and audiences remain astonished at the vivid sense of danger. At original screenings of the film in 1923, audience members were reported to have fainted, a fact played up in the film's promotion.

(from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Safety Last screens at the Paramount as part of the Wellington Film Society programme.

THE BUSH CINDERELLA

Director: Rudall Hayward

Year: 1928

Running time: 85 mins

The *Bush Cinderella* is a cheerful light entertainment, a fitting dramatic vehicle for the photogenic charm of Dale Austen, Miss New Zealand of 1927, whose prize had included several months in Hollywood in the stock company at MGM. An ingratiating mix of popular elements of silent era movies, *The Bush Cinderella* is a rural melodrama with a dash of high seas adventure on the Waitemata and a race to the finish up Queen Street. It is also a nicely effective romance with sexy chemistry between Austen and her impulsive suitors that will surprise anybody who thinks sex in the movies has been a recent development. Lively comic relief is supplied by a rubber-jointed bumpkin (comedian Al Mack) and a rascally band of ruddy-faced country urchins.

The social landscape is as fascinating to behold as the fleeting glimpses of Auckland in the late 20s. The stern Scottish patriarch who casts the fallen orphan into the night lives in baronial splendour, deceived by his Anglo-trash servants (the gaunt, conniving villain is called Myrgatroyd). She finds refuge amongst the rural poor whose rooms are papered with newsprint, but whose steady hearts are filled with generosity. The handsome naval officer hero, discovered fly-fishing in a country brook out of Constable, embodies all the valour, virtue and elegant good manners that England taught us.

Reviewers of the day admired Hayward's 'novel' camera angles, but what's most striking about the direction is the film's sheer liveliness; looking good, ripping along and displaying the talents of an engaging cast in the best possible light. Seventy years later the fun they had running around Auckland, making movies, is still infectious. — Bill Gosden NZ Film Festival 2000.

Hayward's determination to make a film to rival the dramatic impact of Hollywood saw him use a variety of interesting camera techniques and locations. Shooting from moving cars, atop buildings and even aboard a naval yacht moored in Waitemata Harbour. *The Bush Cinderella* became an example of technical and narrative innovation during the emergence of New Zealand cinema.

On its release *The Auckland Sun* heralded *The Bush Cinderella* as 'the most outstanding... film yet produced in New Zealand' and commented that 'it shows the film industry in the Dominion, which is practically centered on the efforts of one man (Hayward) emerging from its days of infancy...high class.' (NZ Film Archive press release 27 May, 2002)

FRIENDS OF THE FILM ARCHIVE COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

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