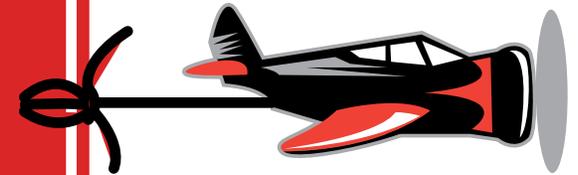


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MILESTONE FLIES THE WORLD!

KILLER OF SHEEP

MILESTONE FILM &
STEVEN SODERBERGH PRESENT
A FILM BY CHARLES BURNETT

"A FLAT-OUT TREASURE. IMPERVIOUS TO TIME!"
—JAY CARR, BOSTON GLOBE

KILLER OF SHEEP

- Beautiful restoration from the original camera negative by UCLA!
- First legal world release of film, ready for January 2007.
- 2007 is the 30th anniversary of this ground-breaking masterpiece!
- Can be licensed as boxed set with Charles Burnett's second film *MY BROTHER'S WEDDING* and three of his short films!

One of the most famous and acclaimed films by an African-American filmmaker, *Killer of Sheep* was declared a "national treasure" by the Library of Congress' National Film Registry and was chosen by the National Society of Film Critics as one of the 100 Essential Films. But, due to music licensing problems, the film has rarely been screened, and then only in ragged 16mm prints. On the film's thirtieth anniversary, Milestone has cleared all the rights and will present the UCLA Film & Television Archive's dazzling 35mm restoration of this landmark film. *Killer of Sheep* premiered at the Berlinale Film Festival and will be released nationally in the spring.

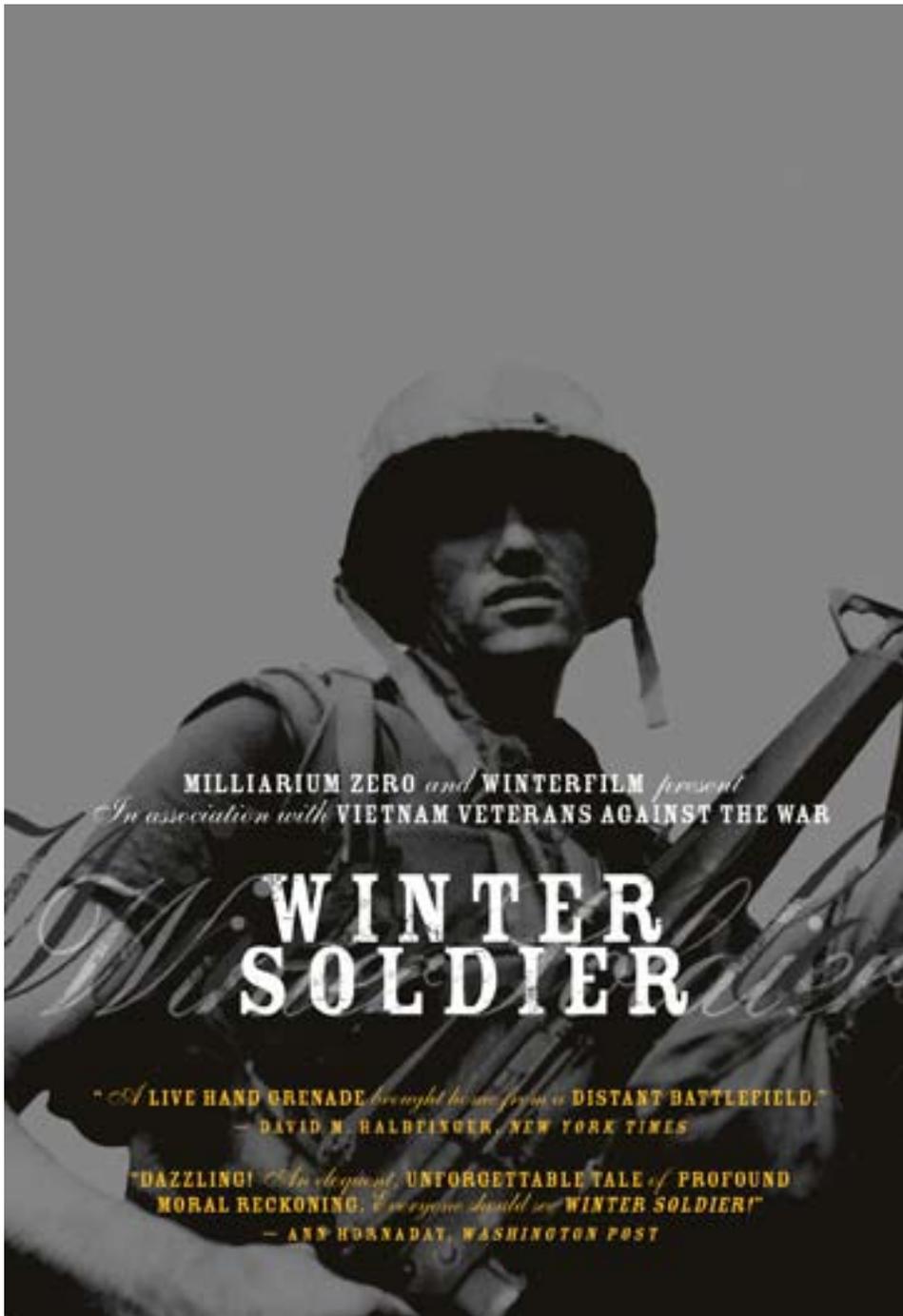
Killer of Sheep is set in Watts in the mid-1970s. Haunted by his work at a slaughterhouse, Stan, a sensitive dreamer, struggles to keep from becoming detached and numb. Frustrated by money problems, he finds respite in moments of simple beauty: the warmth of a coffee cup against his cheek, slow dancing with his wife to the radio, holding his daughter. The film offers no solution, it merely presents life; sometimes hauntingly bleak, sometimes filled with transcendent joy and humor. Burnett says of the film: "Stan's real problem lies within the family, trying to make that work and be a human being. You don't necessarily win battles; you survive." Above all, *Killer of Sheep* is a magnificent cinematic experience; one that will change viewers' lives forever.

"*Killer of Sheep* is one of the most striking debuts in movie history and an acknowledged landmark in African-American film." — Terrence Rafferty, GQ

"What the Italian neorealists accomplished in the years after World War II ... Burnett - a one-man African-American New Wave - achieved with *Killer of Sheep*: he gave a culture, a people, a nation new images of themselves." — Nelson Kim, Senses of Cinema



A MILESTONE FILM RELEASE. DIRECTED, WRITTEN, PRODUCED, EDITED AND CINEMATOGRAPH BY CHARLES BURNETT. STARRING CHARLES BRACY WITH HENRY GAYLE SANDERS, KAYCEE MOORE, CHARLES BRACY, ANGELA BURNETT, EUGENE CHERRY AND JACK DRUMMOND. RESTORED BY UCLA FILM & TELEVISION ARCHIVE. SOUND RESTORATION IN COLLABORATION WITH AUDIO MECHANICS. WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FILM CIRCUIT, INC., STEVEN SODERBERGH AND TURNER CLASSIC MOVIES. WWW.MILESTONEFILMS.COM ©2007 MILESTONE FILMS. POSTER DESIGN BY SCOTT NEELLA.



WINTER SOLDIER

- Acclaimed by the press as one of the Ten Best Films of The Year!
- Shown in over 200 cities in North America!
- A film by Barbara Kopple, Bob Fiore, Lucy Massie Phenix, etc.
- MANY dvd Bonus Features!
- 35-years old, still one of the most important documentaries today!

**"One of the most devastating antiwar films ever made! ...
A testament to those who had the bravery to speak out and speak up."
— Time Out New York**

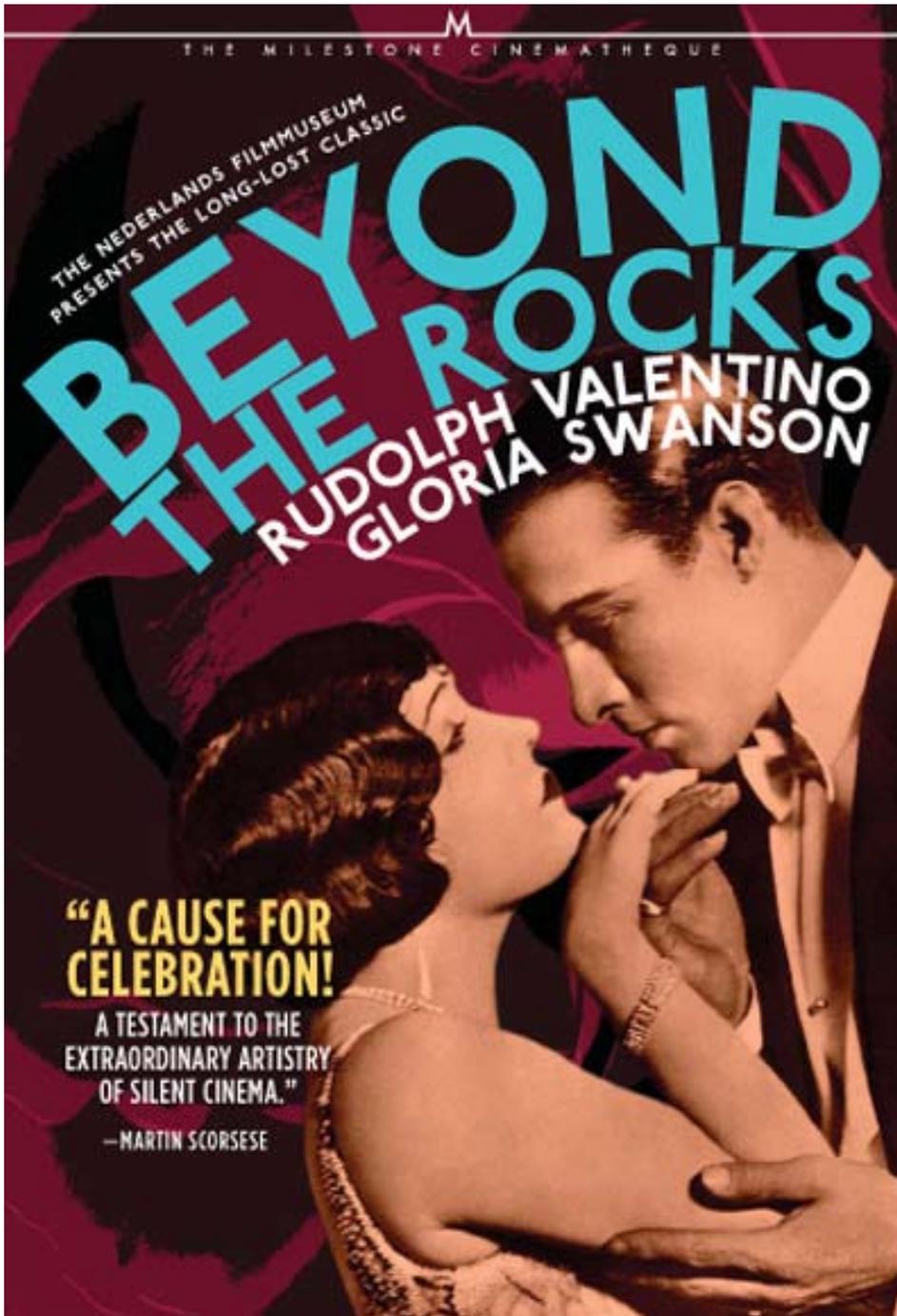
**"Raw and unadorned! ... A live hand grenade brought
home from a distant battlefield." — New York Times**

January 31, 1971. More than 125 veterans gathered in a Howard Johnson's motel in Detroit, Michigan to talk about the war atrocities they had committed in the presence of officers while stationed in Vietnam. The American press ignored them. When one of the Winter Soldier veterans recently ran for political office, opponents labeled John Kerry a liar and a traitor. But he told the truth — they all did.

The Vietnam veterans saw themselves as soldiers still battling, in the darkest of times, to combat the wrongs of the war and to speak out against the brutal training that had made them capable of unthinkable violence. Twelve filmmakers thought their truth was too important to hide. In the years since— Winter Soldier premiered at Cannes in 1972, many of these documentarians have created some of the most important nonfiction films of our time, winning numerous academy awards. Winter Soldier, the film they made together, remains one of the most powerful anti-war statements ever seen. Now, thirty-five years later, it is time to see it again.

A film by Fred Aronow, Nancy Baker, Joe Bangert, Rhett Barron, Robert Fiore, David Gillis, David Grubin, Jeff Holstein, Barbara Jarvis, Al Kaupas, Barbara Kopple, Mark Lenix, Michael Lesser, Lee Osborne, Lucy Massie Phenix, Roger Phenix, Benay Rubenstein and Michael Weil. With John Kerry, Scott Camill & the Vietnam Veterans Against the War. 95 minutes. B&W and color.

**"A film that must be shown! A deeply moving and
absolutely necessary experience" — Amos Vogel, Village Voice**



BEYOND THE ROCKS

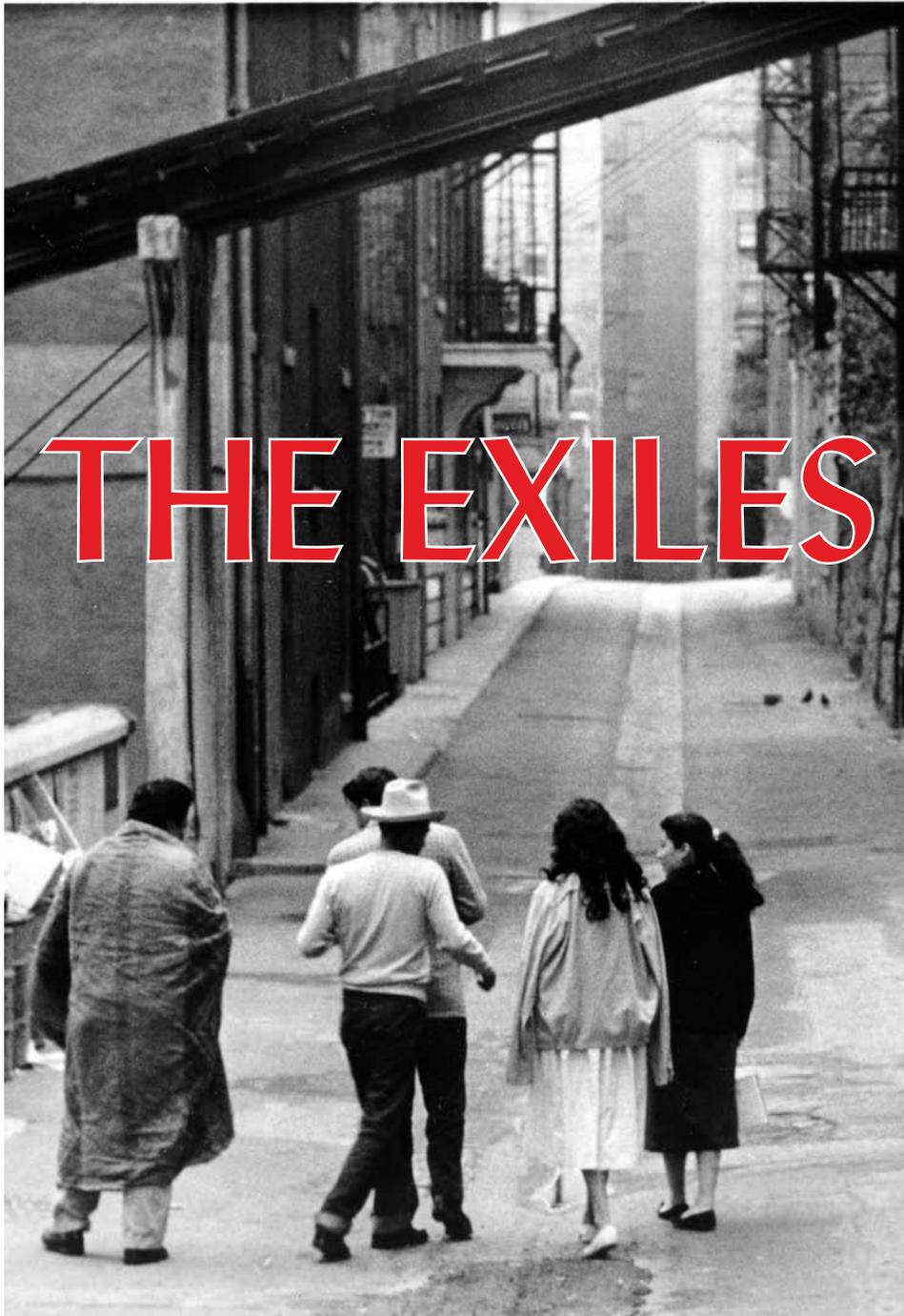
- Premiered at 2005 Cannes and New York Film Festivals!
- Played in over 100 cities around the United States.
- Beautiful restoration by the Nederlands Filmmuseum!
- NY Times' Ten Best DVDs of the Year!
- MANY dvd bonus features including Valentino in *Delicious Little Devil!*

VILLAGE VOICE, August 1st, 2006
Dream Team: Beyond the Rocks
Review by Jim Hoberman

A minor miracle, this newly restored, long-lost 1922 silent was discovered a few years ago, nearly complete, in a Dutch collection. *Beyond the Rocks* was based on a novel by chick-lit pioneer Elinor Glyn and directed by Cecil B. DeMille's then protégé Sam Wood, but what makes the occasion is the dream pairing of Gloria Swanson and Rudolph Valentino... Extras include two versions of the score; a 1919 Valentino feature, *The Delicious Little Devil*; and an introduction by Martin Scorsese.

LOS ANGELES WEEKLY, July 5, 2006
Beyond the Rocks
Review by Paul Malcolm

Milestone Films has made film history for more than 15 years thanks to the passion of its founders, Amy Heller and Dennis Doros, who distribute classic films that have been overlooked, lost or forgotten amid the cinema's ceaseless flood of celluloid. In keeping with that mission, Doros and Heller have launched their own DVD label, The Milestone Cinematheque, to retain, as Doros put it, "more control over the process and to continue to present the films that we love... Current marketing trends and Q ratings just never interested us." One can only imagine what the Q rating might have been for the first title on their label, *Beyond the Rocks*, when it was first released in 1922. Long feared lost, this swooning melodrama features a rare pairing of two high-wattage silent stars, Rudolph Valentino and Gloria Swanson, as lovers drawn together by fate but kept apart by greed and social mores. . . . The film's theme of passion deferred resonates with its own legend, as the thought of seeing Valentino romancing Swanson onscreen has stoked interest in *Beyond the Rocks* for more than eight decades. When surviving reels were discovered in 2000 in the Netherlands, waves of anticipation shot through silent-film circles, and this gorgeous restoration, with a lush new score by Henny Vriente, more than gratifies.



THE EXILES

- Newly restored from original camera negative by UCLA!
- One of the most important Native-American films in history!
- MANY dvd bonus features including Kent Mackenzie's short films *Bunker Hill* and *A Skill for Molina*
- 2007 is the 35th anniversary of the film's premiere!

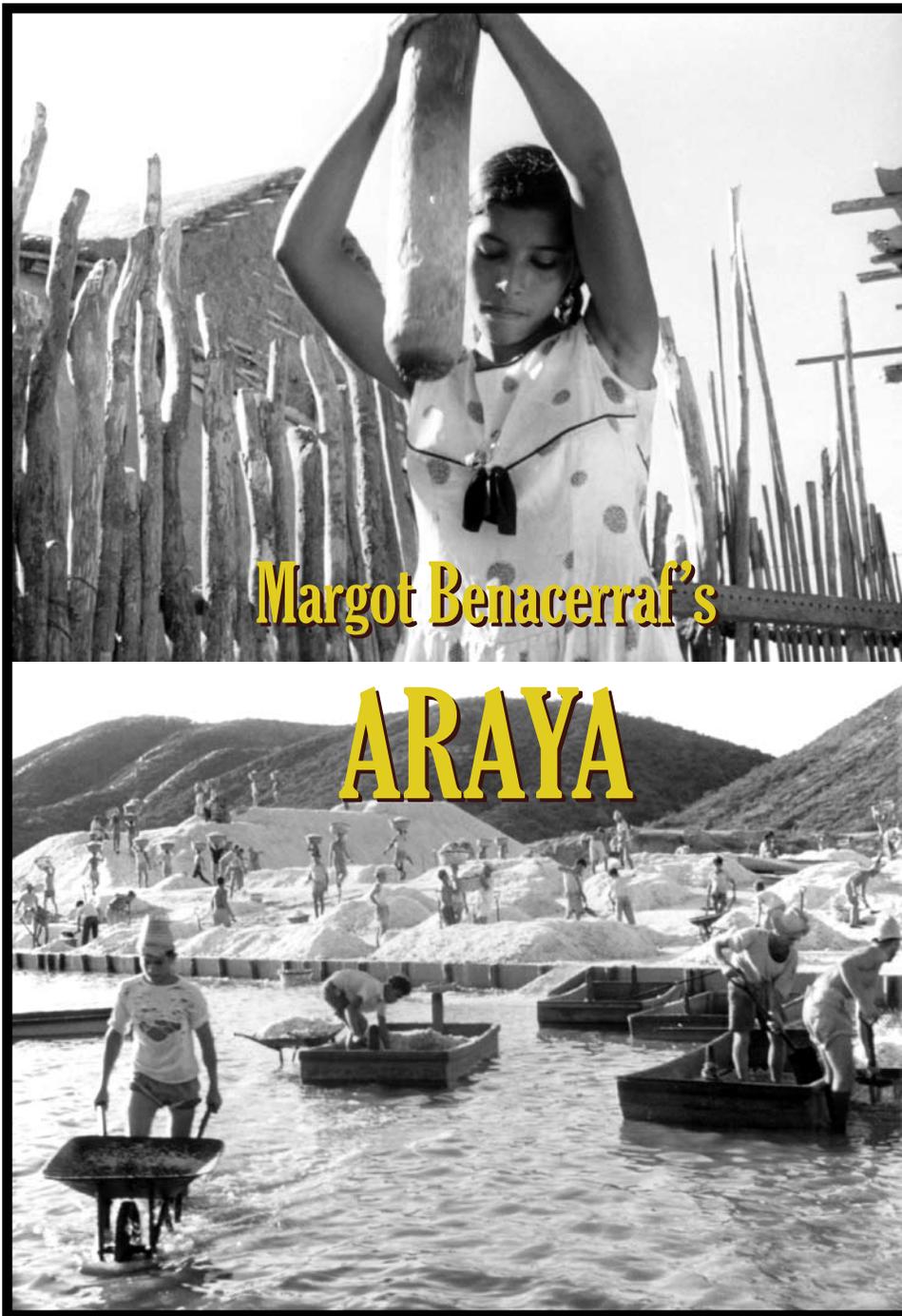
"*The Exiles* deserves to be ranked with John Cassavetes' *Shadows*. Its moving portraiture is refreshingly free of clichés and moralizing platitudes, and the high-contrast black-and-white photography and dense, highly creative soundtrack are equally impressive...Mackenzie lived only long enough to make one other feature, but this film's lower-case urban poetry suggests a major talent." – Jonathan Rosenbaum, *Chicago Reader*

Milestone is very proud to announce that it has partnered with the USC Film Archive and the UCLA Film Archive to preserve and restore for worldwide distribution the remarkable 1962 debut feature of the late Kent Mackenzie, *The Exiles*. Years in the making and then only to be lost to history by its then lack of commercial distribution and the folding of the original distributor, *The Exiles* exploded into the collective consciousness this year through Thom Anderson's new doc, *Los Angeles Plays Itself*.

Milestone's president, Amy Heller, was thrilled that Mackenzie's family chose Milestone as its distributor. "The importance of *The Exiles* in terms of cinema history and Native American literature cannot be underestimated. Its first-ever theatrical release in 2007 will be a revelation to audiences around the world and an inspiration to filmmakers for years to come."

The Exiles tells the simple story of a Native American couple and their friends struggling to make a living in 1960 Bunker Hill, Los Angeles. During one night, they gamble, they drink, they fight, and they dream of a better life. With brilliant cinematography by Erik Darstaad and John Morrill, the film is an incredible, evocative portrait of the "City of Angels."

"Director-producer-writer Kent Mackenzie made his debut with this documentary-like feature film; tragically, he would complete only one more film before dying an untimely death. His talent is evident in his shot compositions, his heartbreaking close-ups, his thorough integration of settings and players, and his incredible use of lighting. This film is reminiscent of and every bit as good as Cassavetes' *Shadows*, and possibly better for showing us people we almost never see on screen, even today."
— Marilyn Ferdinand, *Bright Lights Film Journal*



ARAYA

- Cannes Film Festival winner.
- As visually sumptuous and poetically brilliant as I AM CUBA.
- To be restored from the original camera negative.
- Important landmark in feminist and Latin American cinema.
- MANY dvd bonus features including Benacerraf's short doc *Révéron*

Milestone is very proud to announce that it has partnered with director Margot Benacerraf to preserve and restore for worldwide distribution her brilliant films *Révéron* and *Araya*. Acclaimed as a forerunner of feminist Latina cinema, *Araya* was never released theatrically in the United States and the initial acclaim it garnered when it shared the Cannes International Critics Prize with *Hiroshima, Mon Amour* has faded over the years.

Benacerraf is Venezuela's version of Francois Truffaut and Henri Langlois, Michael Powell and Kevin Brownlow. After her two films jumpstarted international interest in Latin American cinema, she went on to found Venezuela's Cineteca Nacional and Fundavisual Latina — providing preservation for Latin American cinema and cinematheque screenings (now at the "Salle Margot Benacerraf") — inspiring countless young filmmakers to become filmmakers.

Araya, a peninsula in northeastern Venezuela, is one of the most arid places on earth. For five hundred years, since its discovery by the Spanish, the region's salt has been exploited manually. A 17th-century fortress built to protect against pirate raids stands as a reminder of the days when salt was worth almost as much as gold and great fortunes were made. Benacerraf captures the life of the *salineros* and their back-breaking work in breathtaking images. The Peredas family works at night in the salt marshes, the Ortiz are fishermen and the Salaz collect salt. The three stories underline the harsh life of this region — all of which vanished with the arrival of industrial exploitation.

A film of such lasting beauty that Jean Renoir told Benacerraf after seeing the film: "Above all ... don't cut a single image!"

A Milestone Video Release

ERNST LUBITSCH'S

Eternal Love

Starring JOHN BARRYMORE
and CAMILLA HORN

DIGITALLY MASTERED FROM THE RESTORED 35MM PRINT
WITH THE ORIGINAL ORCHESTRAL SCORE

ETERNAL LOVE

- November 30, 2007 is the 60th Anniversary of Ernst Lubitsch's death.
- February 14, 2007 is the 125th birthday of John Barrymore.
- Beautiful restoration by the UCLA Film & Television Archive!

The story of *Eternal Love* takes place during the events leading up to the war of 1806. French conquerors order Swiss villagers to surrender arms. All but Marcus (Barrymore), comply. Pia, a wild mountain girl, vows to win Marcus for herself, even though he is already in love with Ciglia, the preacher's daughter. During the town masquerade, Marcus drinks too much and frightens Ciglia with his raw passion. Pia sees her opportunity to win Marcus. Still masked, she seduces him and then forces him to marry her. Despairing, Ciglia weds townsman Lorenz Gruber. Unfolding political events bring the character's hidden passions to the fore, and the true lovers at last unite in an otherworldly ending.

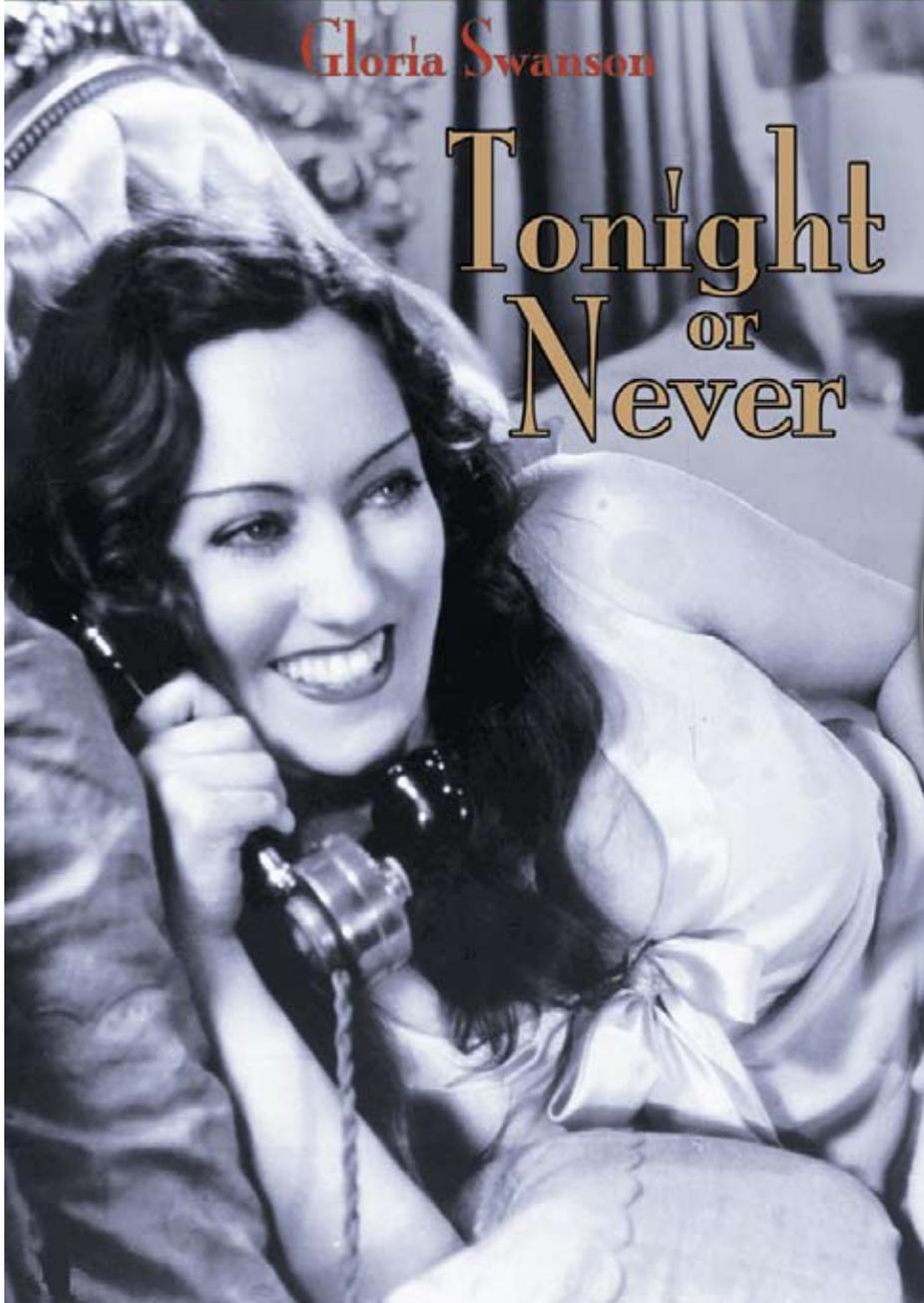
This is the first opportunity outside of rare archive screenings to see this unknown work by film great, Ernst Lubitsch. The drama features a marvelously boisterous performance by John Barrymore (complete with a fantastic drunk scene) and Camilla Horn (the gorgeous star of F.W. Murnau's *Faust*). Although a heroic historical tale, the Lubitsch "touch" can be found throughout the film. Barrymore's intimate, brooding and sexual performance, shows the great actor's magnetism with women on stage and off. His love scenes with Camilla Horn are among both actors' best performances on film. *Eternal Love* was Lubitsch's last silent film effort and fortunately the sound discs survived of the original score. Preserved from the best archival materials, the picture quality is absolutely stunning.

"Amazing for a silent-era film, Ernst Lubitsch's story of love, war, and tragedy on a Swiss mountaintop will have you in tears by its finale. The photography is unforgettable and the finale is devastating ... *Eternal Love* is absolutely worth a look if you're a fan of the silent era. You'll love it. Eternally." — *Filmcritic.com*

THE MILESTONE COLLECTION

Gloria Swanson

Tonight or Never

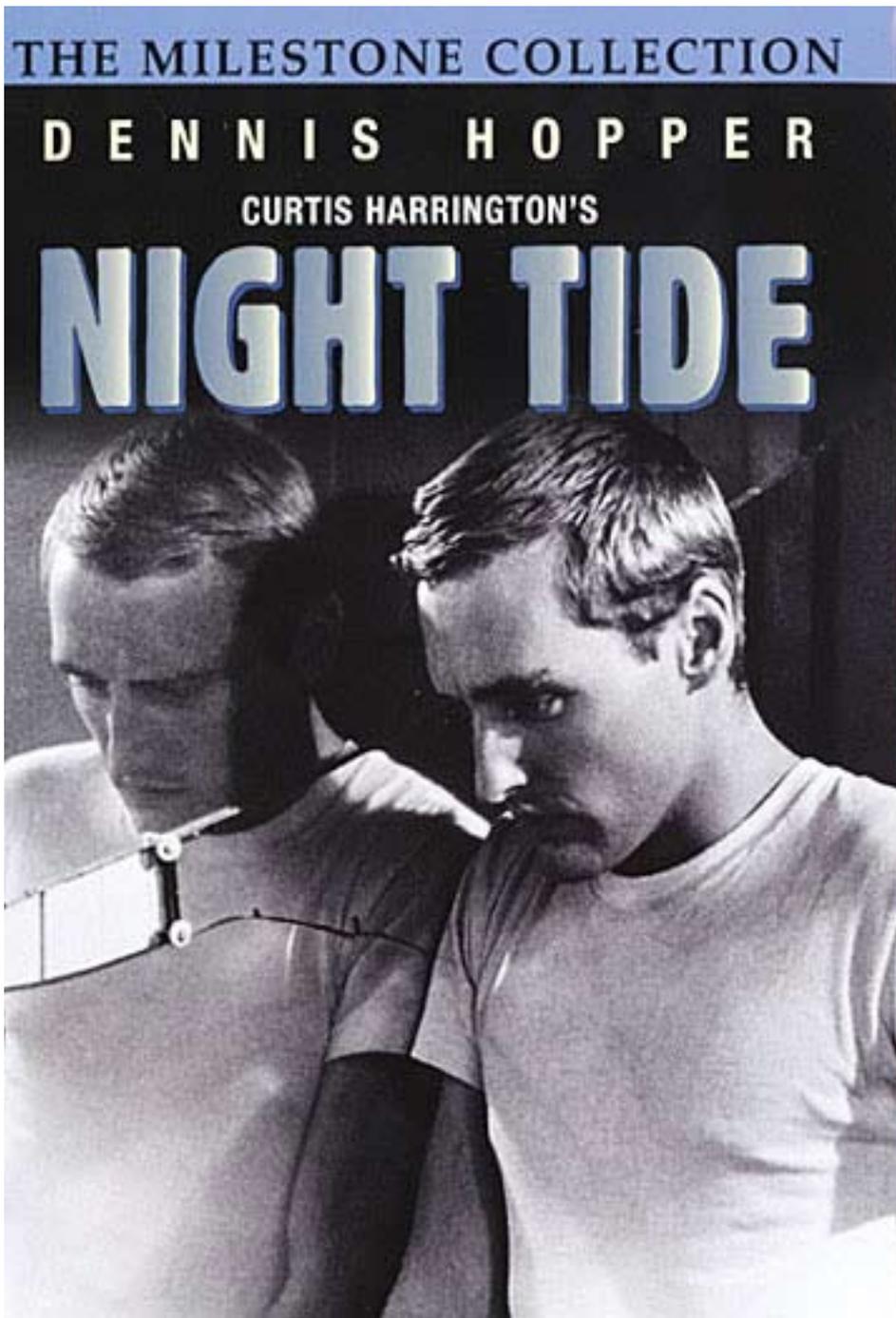


TONIGHT OR NEVER

- Beautiful restoration by the UCLA Film & Television Archive!
- 20th Anniversary of Mervyn Leroy's death in 2007.
- 110th anniversary of Gloria Swanson's birth. Can be shown with *Beyond the Rocks*.

Nella Vago (Gloria Swanson) is an opera singer making her Venice debut. While the audiences love her, Nella's voice teacher tells her that she will never have the soul of a true artist until she experiences real passion. Nella is soon distracted by an anonymous romantic admirer who paces the courtyard outside her window each night. Unfortunately, her would-be suitor also seems to be a gigolo keeping company with an elderly Marchessa (Alison Skipworth) with a notorious past. When the lovely diva "accidentally" finds her way to the Marchessa's apartment one evening, her mysterious suitor insists that it is "Tonight or Never!" Needless to say, her next performance is sublime.

After middling success in her first two talkies, Samuel Goldwyn promised Gloria Swanson a lavish production to renew her career. *Tonight or Never* was based on the successful stage comedy starring Melvyn Douglas and his new bride, Helen Gahagan. Douglas reprised his role while Swanson took over as the female lead. Swanson was sent to Paris for two months to have her gowns for the film personally designed and fitted by Coco Chanel. Swanson affects a perfect knowing yet innocent portrayal and her early years studying opera singing proved valuable to the role. Melvyn Douglas, in his feature debut (though Swanson was only four years older than Douglas, she had already appeared in forty features over the past sixteen years!) more than holds his own with the legendary actress. Mervyn Leroy (*Little Caesar* and *Waterloo Bridge*) was borrowed from Warner Brothers to direct the film. Skilled at various genres, Leroy enlisted the help of scriptwriter Ernest Vajda, who wrote many of Lubitsch's best films. This witty comedy features subtle and not-so-subtle sexual innuendo - a staple of pre-Code Hollywood Cinematographer Gregg Toland (ten years before *Citizen Kane*) added his own visual signature - complex and ingenious deep-focus shots add to the film's luster. *Tonight or Never* is a delightful and dazzling film from Hollywood's Golden Age.



Night Tide

- A new video master can be struck off the original 35mm negative
- Bonus Features: original 1963 trailer is available as well as commentary by Curtis Harrington and star Dennis Hopper.

Johnny Drake, a young sailor on leave and at loose ends, wanders the ramshackle amusement piers of a seaside community. Shyly, he strikes up a conversation with a dark-haired girl listening to jazz at the local coffee shop. This is Mora, a lovely, ethereal young woman who turns out to be one of the piers' prize exhibits - a living mermaid! Naturally, Johnny doesn't buy the old fish tale that this troubled girl is a true denizen of the deep, but disturbing and tantalizing clues start to hint at a supernatural explanation for her otherworldly behavior. Who is the strange Woman in Black who mutters in an indecipherable tongue and seems to taunt Mora with memories of an earlier aquatic existence? Why does Mora share such an affinity with the locale, what really happened between Mora and her two previous boyfriends, the ones whose drowned bodies wash up on a lonely stretch of beach?

Will Johnny find out the answers before it's too late, or will the siren song of an ancient race lure him into the sea and the night tide of a watery death?

"Fearful enchantment!" - *Time Magazine*

"Eerily poetic. Striking. Compelling." - *The New York Times*

"*Night Tide* is a very handsome affair. The b&w picture is from an original element and probably looks better than did the original prints. *Night Tide* is a ... serious, artistic independent thriller that has stayed interesting long after the monster films made around it became camp jokes. Seeing Dennis Hopper play a 'nice guy' is a revelation, after all his psycho roles. And his commentary with director Curtis Harrington is an object lesson in the loneliness of serious filmmaking, circa 1960." — *DVD Savant*



LEGONG

- Gorgeous 2-color Technicolor shot on location in Bali.
- 35th Anniversary director Marquis de la Falaise's death.
- MANY dvd bonus features including feature doc *Gods of Bali* by Oscar-winning Robert Snyder and Falaise's second feature, *Kliou the Killer!*
- Two scores — the original soundtrack and new Gamelan score by GSJ.

NEW YORK TIMES, November 30, 2004

By Dave Kehr

An amazing cultural artifact reclaimed by Milestone Film and Video, *Legong: Dance of the Virgins* was filmed in 1933 by the Marquis Henry de la Falaise de la Coudray, a Hollywood dilettante then on his second celebrity wife, the actress Constance Bennett, who followed Gloria Swanson in the marquis's affections. Using his wife's money – *Legong* is a "Bennett Production" – Falaise took a two-strip Technicolor camera and a small crew to the South Sea island of Bali, where he shot this delirious blend of sentimental fiction and ethnological fact. Falaise was following in the footsteps of the documentarian Robert Flaherty, who invented this peculiar blend of fact and fiction with his 1922 "Nanook of the North," and F.W. Murnau, whose 1931 "Tabu" spun a masterpiece of personal filmmaking from Flaherty's format. But Falaise brought his own sensibility to the project, a frank sensuality that embraced both the lush scenery of the exotic setting and the glowing bodies of his half-nude subjects.

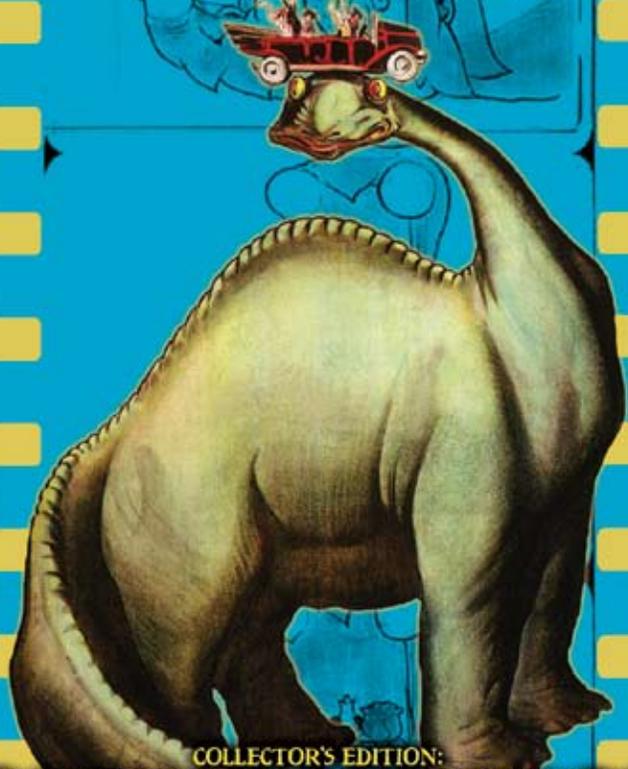
The simple story – of a temple dancer, Poutou, whose passion for the handsome gamelan player Nyong is frustrated when Nyong falls in love with Poutou's half-sister – plays on the Western audience's fantasies of the South Seas as a kind of innocent Eden, free of sexual inhibitions and guilt. But the premise also offers plenty of opportunity to record the elaborate rituals (like the *Legong* – the annual dance of the temple maidens) during a pre-tourism period when they still had their integrity and purpose. The red and green tints of two-strip Technicolor prove to be surprisingly well adapted to the island setting, and the restoration, carried out by the UCLA Film and Television Archive, is superb. The Milestone disc includes both the original score and a new soundtrack composed by Richard Marriott and I Made Subandi and performed by the Gamelan group Sekar Jaya and the Club Foot Orchestra. The latter could stand alone as a ravishing orchestral suite of Balinese themes... One of the best produced and most revelatory DVD's of 2004.

THE MILESTONE COLLECTION

The Cinémathèque Québécoise
and Milestone present

Winsor McCay

THE MASTER EDITION



DVD
VIDEO

Winsor McCay

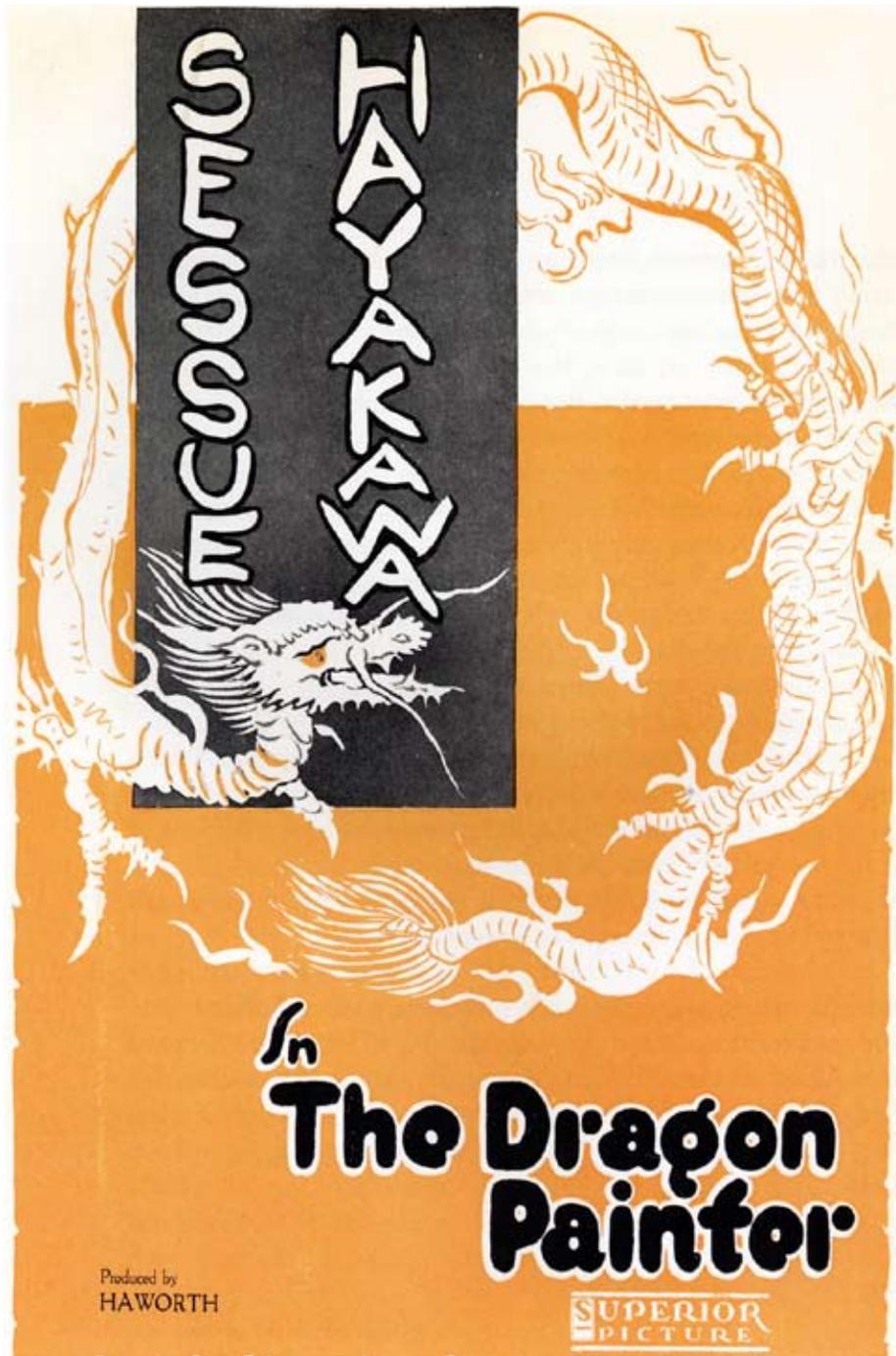
- New video master with new scores.
- MANY Bonus Features including Oscar-winner John Canemaker's doc "Remember Winsor McCay" (20 minutes), Stills Gallery and Canemaker commentary.

Winsor McCay, pioneer newspaper cartoonist and first master of animation, was one of the greatest and most influential artists. His films — joyous, hilarious and beautiful — continue to delight and astonish audiences today. Milestone's Winsor McCay: The Master Edition features brand-new digital transfers of every surviving film by this cinema pioneer, a new piano score by composer Gabriel Thibaudeau, and John Canemaker's wonderful documentary Remembering Winsor McCay (1976, 18 minutes).

McCay created a pantheon of beloved characters including Little Nemo, the intrepid traveler in Slumberland; Nemo's friends Flip and Impie; and the enchanting Gertie the Dinosaur. Highlights in this collection include the stunning hand-colored *Little Nemo* (1911) mastered from the only known 35mm print in existence, and *Gertie the Dinosaur* (1914) which was recently restored by the National Archives of Canada using four 35mm nitrate prints from the Cinémathèque's collection.

Other cinematic treasures include the funny and bizarre *How A Mosquito Operates* (1912), the deeply moving *The Sinking Of The Lusitania* (1918), the existing fragments of the lyrical *The Centaurs* (1918-21), the charming *Gertie On Tour* (1918-21) and *Flip's Circus* (1918-21). McCay's final three works, all from his surreal and bizarre "Scenes from a Rarebit Fiend" series are featured: *Bug Vaudeville* (1921), *The Pet* (1921) and *The Flying House* (1921).

"Meet the man who virtually invented animated cartoons... Milestone Films has just released a terrific compendium of McCay's work, in the best available prints known to exist, along with a documentary by John Canemaker... *Winsor McCay: The Master Edition* is required viewing for anyone who cares about animation... but films like Gertie are not just pioneering efforts; they're still extremely entertaining." — Leonard Maltin, *NPR*



THE DRAGON PAINTER

- MANY dvd bonus features including Hayakawa's first features, Thomas Ince's *The Wrath of the Gods*, also co-starring his wife Tsuru Aoki.
- Restored by the George Eastman House Film Archive.
- Beautiful original tints and new Japanese scores.

Remembered mostly for his magnificent performance as the Japanese officer in *The Bridge over the River Kwai*, few filmgoers realize that Sessue Hayakawa was one of the great stars of the silent cinema. In many films he played a dashing, romantic lead — a rarity for Asian actors in Hollywood, even today. Hayakawa became so popular and powerful that he was able to start Haworth Pictures to control his own destiny. *The Dragon Painter* (1919) was the finest of the Haworth productions. Beautifully acted, gorgeously shot (with Yosemite Valley filling in for the Japanese landscape), and lovingly directed, the film is an absolute marvel.

Hayakawa plays Tatsu, an artist living as a hermit in the wilds of Japan. Thought mad by the local villagers, he believes that his princess fiancée has been captured by a dragon. His obsession leads to artistic inspiration. It isn't until a surveyor comes across Tatsu in the mountains that his genius is discovered. The surveyor informs the famed artist Kano Indara about his discovery. Kano is desperate to find a male heir to teach his art, but when Tatsu meets Kano's daughter (played by Hayakawa's wife, Tsuru Aoki) and sees only his lost princess, a clash of wills brings the household to the brink of disaster.

Long considered lost, *The Dragon Painter* was rediscovered in a French distribution print and brought to the George Eastman House for restoration with the original tints. The film survives today as a tribute to Hayakawa's great artistry and a shining example of Asian-American cinema.

"*The Dragon Painter* is impressive, and Hayakawa's interpretation of the leading role is clear and convincing... Excellent!" — *New York Times*

THE MILESTONE COLLECTION

DOLORES DEL RIO
in
Evangeline



EVANGELINE

- Beautiful tinted restoration by the UCLA Film & Television Archive!
- Part talkie with the two songs in the film sung by Dolores del Rio!

“Always remember, dear, my love shall never forsake thee...
as long as water runs.” — Evangeline

A story of lost love deeply ingrained in American myth, *Evangeline* vividly brings to life the human consequences of historical tragedy. In the quiet Nova Scotia village of Grand-Pré, the beautiful and beloved Evangeline lives with her father Benedict Bellefontaine, a prosperous and honored pillar of the Acadian community. Although Evangeline admires and is adored by Baptiste, son of the local notary, she refuses his offer of marriage – she loves and is pledged to Gabriel. Before their marriage can take place, France and England declare war. The Acadians, bound by allegiance to England and by ties of kinship to France, refuse to take up arms against France and as a result, are ordered deported. As the men are herded aboard a British man-o'-war, soldiers set fire to the village. Suffering from exposure and grief, Benedict dies in his daughter's arms. Evangeline is forced to leave for lands unknown– arriving at last at Bayou Teche, Louisiana, where former residents of her village have established a settlement. Baptiste, now a wealthy man, asks her to marry him. Evangeline refuses because she still loves Gabriel and vows to search the country for him...

This is the best and most renowned film version of the classic story by one of America's greatest poets, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Dolores del Rio, the legendary Mexican actress and one of film's great beauties, is at her best and most stunning in this tragic tale of long-lost love. The film's dazzling cinematography includes some of the most arresting images in all of silent cinema.

“The art of the silent cinema at its height. The story and its presentation are highly moving, from the deportation to the seemingly impossible search... Unabashedly romantic, the film admirably succeeds as a tear-jerker. Highly affecting, and often breathtaking in its scope and location cinematography, *Evangeline* is a worthwhile film for anyone looking for an old-fashioned romance.” – Mark Zimmer, *DigitallyObsessed.com*



THE BAT WHISPERS

- Beautiful widescreen restoration by UCLA
- Two versions shot-separately: widescreen & 1:33 available.

The Mary Roberts Rinehart and Avery Hopwood mystery comedy that was such a tremendous success on the Broadway stage and the 1927 silent version, *The Bat*, made its appearance on the talking screen as *The Bat Whispers*. Roland West, a director with the reputation as a master of crime and suspense, wanted to best his previous version and decided to make the film in 65mm widescreen — one of only a handful of films made that way before Cinemascope.

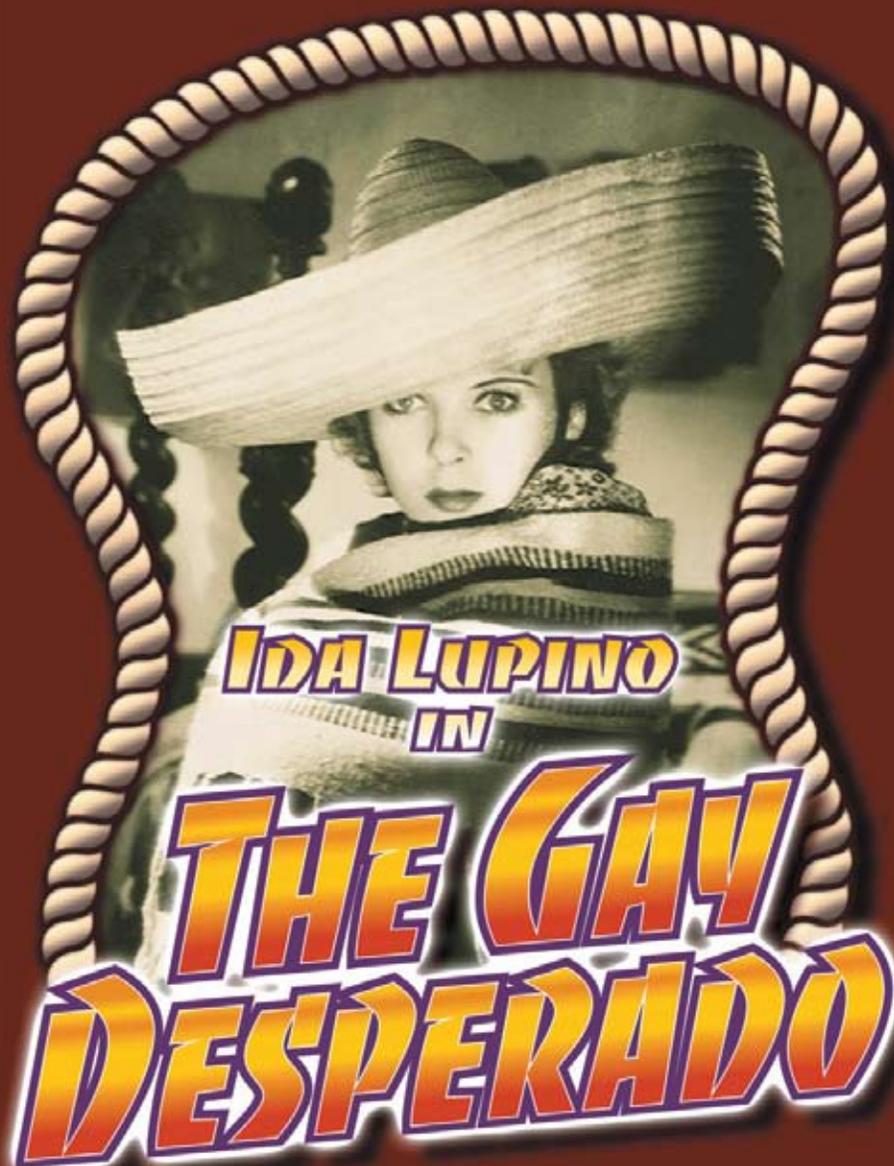
The Bat, an arch criminal has been terrifying the district, eluding the police. A bank is robbed, and the home of the bank president is the center of mysterious happenings, apparently to frighten away the renting tenant. A colorful array of characters, including an imposture gardener, the chief detective, and a neighboring doctor successively arrive, lured by the rumor of a secret room hiding the stolen money. The blueprints which reveal the location of this room are found, stolen, killed for, lost, found, and stolen once again. A mysterious stranger appears, and then disappears. So does the Bat. Amidst thrills, chills, and laughs, the money is found as is the identity of the Bat...

The Bat Whispers is set in an “old dark house” where danger lurks and the shadows are painted on the sets. The story tells of a mysterious master criminal known as “The Bat” who follows a rival thief to an estate rented by a wealthy aging woman. A closetful of assorted characters converge on this manse only to discover that they have The Bat in the belfry.

The Bat Whispers was the first movie to appeal to the audience at the end of the film to not disclose plot information. *The Bat Whispers* also provided the main inspiration for Bob Kane’s 1939 comic, Batman.

“Macabre, innovative ... and entertaining! Superb!”-- *Village Voice*

THE MILESTONE COLLECTION



DIRECTED BY ROUBEN MAMOULIAN

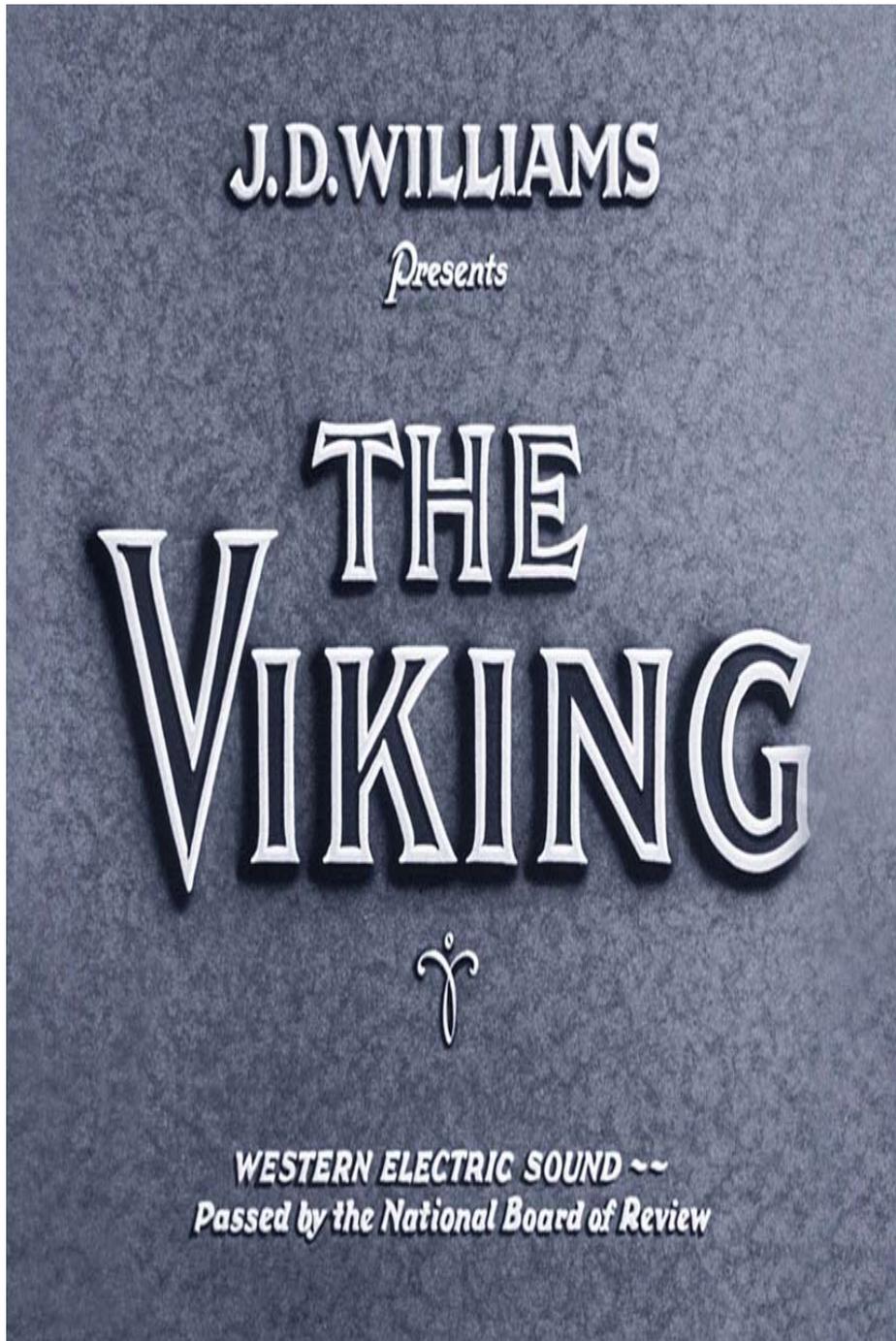
THE GAY DESPERADO

- Beautiful restoration by the UCLA Film & Television Archive!
- October 8, 2007 is the 110th anniversary of Mamoulian's birth & December 4th is the 20th of his death.
- Lovely and fun score by Alfred Newman.
- Remarkable cinematography by Lucien Andriot.

Ida Lupino and Metropolitan Opera star tenor, Nino Martini star in this classic musical comedy directed by the great Rouben Mamoulian (*Applause*, *Queen Christina* and *Love Me Tonight*). After watching an American gangster film, Pablo Braganza, a fierce Mexican bandit (Leo Carrillo), is inspired to reorganize his outlaw gang to Chicago standards. Also a music lover, he kidnaps the great opera star Chivo (Martini) because he likes his voice. When Braganza learns that two hold-up victims are actually a wealthy young man and his fiancée crossing the Mexican border to elope, he kidnaps them in hopes of getting a healthy ransom. The groom-to-be, interested only in saving his own skin, escapes, leaving Chivo and lovely Jane (played by the wonderful Ida Lupino) to fall in love. Carrillo is hilarious as the Mexican bandit-turned-gangster and the film satirizes such Hollywood tough guys as James Cagney, Edward G. Robinson and George Raft. Martini sings contemporary songs and popular arias including Verdi's "Celeste Alda." Lupino shines in one of her best roles. An eccentric, wild ride featuring gags, in-jokes and bizarre characters, *The Gay Desperado* features master filmmaker Mamoulian's famous style, humor and musical flair.

"One of Mamoulian's rare comedies, *The Gay Desperado* mixes a music-loving bandit (played with panache by Leo Carrillo) who's eager to emulate the gangsters he sees in American movies, a singing caballero (opera star Nino Martini, who cut a far more romantic figure than Lawrence Tibbett) and a spunky eloping would-be bride (a very young Ida Lupino) for much light-hearted fun. Cinematographer Lucien Andriot's stunning black-and-white compositions have been restored to their original razor-sharp definition."

— Kevin Thomas, *Los Angeles Times*



THE VIKING

- Restored by the National Archives of Canada.
- Hollywood's biggest real life disaster -- 27 men during shoot.
- Some of the best Arctic location footage ever.
- MANY dvd bonus features including Still Galleries and two short docs by Frissell.

In March 9, 1931, the SS Viking left the port of St. John's, Newfoundland and sailed into motion picture history. On board were New York filmmaker Varick Frissell and an unusual crew of seamen and Hollywood movie people. Their mission: to shoot the final scenes for an epic feature film on the lives of Newfoundland sealers. Six days later, an accidental onboard explosion killed Frissell and 26 other men.

Born in 1903, Frissell grew up on Manhattan's moneyed Upper East Side and studied at Yale. Caught up in the early fad for home movies and mentored by renowned documentarian Robert Flaherty, Frissell quickly grasped the potential of the emerging genre. In 1921 he attended a lecture by Dr. Wilfred Grenfell, who had established medical outposts along the isolated Labrador coast. Frissell went to work with Grenfell and was overwhelmed by the stark beauty of the landscape. With two successful documentaries (*The Lure of Labrador* and *The Swilin' Racket*) under his belt, he secured the backing of Paramount Pictures to make a feature sound film. Frissell and his large crew hauled heavy camera and sound equipment to the rolling ice floes of the North Atlantic. The legendary Bob Bartlett (captain of Robert E. Peary's expeditions to the North Pole) plays himself, working alongside the local sealers and American actors. Tragically, with the explosion, the shot-on-location melodrama turned into one of Hollywood's worst disasters.

"Technically and thematically, a remarkable example of maverick filmmaking in the northern reaches of North America." — *Take One*