

Fall 2002

Carmel Myers and Kenneth Harlan in *Poisoned Paradise* (1924, UCLA Film and Television Archive), one of 67 silent-era films preserved through the NFPF's Saving the Silents project. Photo courtesy of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



Francis Ford in Thomas Ince's Western *The Invaders* (1912, Library of Congress), from the NFPF's forthcoming three-DVD set of silent-era films, scheduled for release in September 2004.

"Too often people read about the fine silent film preservation done by archives but don't have a chance to see it for themselves. It is wonderful that the NEH is supporting this project to make American silent films available to scholars and film audiences everywhere."

Leonard Maltin
on the NFPF's forthcoming DVD set



Miriam Cooper and Ralph Graves in *Kindred of the Dust* (1922), directed by Raoul Walsh. Restored by the George Eastman House, this is one of nine films from U.S. archives included in the 2002 Pordenone Silent Film Festival's salute to the NFPF's Saving the Silents project.

Preservation Guides in the Works

Thanks to a \$165,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the NFPF will produce two new guides to introduce film preservation to libraries and museums. The works will be developed by motion picture expert David Francis, the Rochester Institute of Technology's Image Permanence Institute, and the L. Jeffrey Selznick School of Film Preservation at the George Eastman House.

The new tools will be designed specifically for nonspecialists working with industrial films, home movies, and other types of motion pictures found in public institutions. The guides will explain preservation and storage techniques that are practical for regional film collections.

"Scores of museums, universities, and libraries have historically significant films but little information on how to care for them. These guides will help regional collections preserve their films and open up resources for scholars," said Paul Eisloeffel of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Slated for publication in December 2003, *The Film Preservation Guide* and *Media Storage Quick Reference Guide* will be available on the Internet and through the Council on Library and Information Resources.

Coming Soon Silent Film Treasures on DVD

With a \$200,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the NFPF is joining forces with American film archives to produce a three-DVD anthology of long-unavailable films from the silent era.

Although American silent films once delighted audiences around the world, fewer than 20 percent survive today. The NFPF's nine-hour boxed set will showcase the panorama of American filmmaking before the adoption of the talkie in 1929. It will present silent film types seldom seen on video, from serial episodes to avant-garde works. Like the NFPF's acclaimed *Treasures from American Film Archives* DVD anthology, the 2004 release will include new musical accompaniments and a printed catalog.

The new set will draw from films preserved by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the George Eastman House, the Library of Congress, the Museum of Modern Art, and the UCLA Film and Television Archive. The NFPF is now seeking matching funds to complete production.

Federal Employees Lend a Hand

The Combined Federal Campaign has once again selected the NFPF to participate in its annual workplace giving campaign. Through the CFC, federal employees may donate to more than 1,400 charities through payroll contributions. (The NFPF number for CFC contributions is 1169.) Thank you to all who supported film preservation in last year's drive.

Calendar

Pordenone Silent Film Festival salutes Saving the Silents	Oct. 12–19, 2002
Registration period for 2003 federal grants	Oct. 28–Dec. 16, 2002
Film preservation guides discussed at AMIA conference	Nov. 20, 2002
New edition of FIAF silent film database released	Dec. 6, 2002
Applications due for 2003 federal grants	Jan. 31, 2003

Federal Grants Help 36 Archives Save Orphan Films

A 1973 documentary on the construction of the World Trade Center, the earliest motion pictures by a native Alaskan filmmaker, profiles of artists Jean Tinguely and Nikki de Saint Phalle, a 1919 promotional short for the pioneering all-girl Camp Wohelo, home movies by the Ansel Adams family in New Mexico in 1929, Harold Lloyd's 1918 comedy *The Tip*, a backstage view of opera baritone Richard Bonelli, the Ethel Barrymore melodrama *The Call of Her People* (1917), and avant-garde works by John and James Whitney, Stan Brakhage, Taylor Mead, and Robert Beavers—these are among the 68 films that will be preserved through the 2002 National Film Preservation Foundation federal grant program.

In its third year, the program welcomes proposals from non-profit and public organizations throughout the United States. Universities, libraries, state archives, historical societies, folklore collections, medical research centers, and museums of art, history, transportation, agriculture, and natural history are now using NFPF grants to save culturally and historically significant films in their collections. The NFPF awards target American orphan films that are unlikely to survive without public support.

"We need to help libraries and museums save as many of these treasures as we can," said Richard Wesley (Writers Guild of America, East), who served on the spring grant panel. More than half of the NFPF's program participants were able to begin their organization's first film preservation project through NFPF support.

The federally authorized program is made possible through funding provided by *The National Film Preservation Foundation Act of 1996* and secured through the Library of Congress. Awards support the creation of preservation masters and access copies for the public. The NFPF pays all costs of managing the program from matching funds donated by private sources.

In late September the NFPF will distribute grants of services donated by commercial laboratories and postproduction houses. For a full list of the public-spirited laboratories and storage providers supporting our programs, visit www.filmpreservation.org.



Stan Brakhage filming *Eyes* (1971), preserved by Anthology Film Archives through the NFPF's 2002 federal grant program.

Congratulations to the 2002 Grant Winners

Anthology Film Archives	Minnesota Historical Society
California Pacific Medical Center	National Center for Jewish Film
Cleveland Museum of Art	National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution
Coe College	Nebraska State Historical Society
Donnell Media Center,	New Mexico State Records Center and Archives
New York Public Library	Northeast Historic Film
East Tennessee State University	Pacific Film Archive
Framingham State College	San Diego Historical Society
George Eastman House	San Francisco Media Archive
GLBT Historical Society of Northern California	Society of the Divine Word, Chicago Province Archives
iotaCenter	St. Vincent Medical Center
Japanese American National Museum	Stanford University
Jerome Robbins Dance Division, New York Public Library	Tudor Place
Library of Congress	University of Alaska Fairbanks
Louis Wolfson II Florida Moving Image Archive	University of Iowa
Maine Historical Society	University of Minnesota
Maryland Historical Society	Utah State Historical Society
Menil Collection	Wayne State University
	Whitney Museum of American Art

Out of the Archive: Preservation Goes Public

Since 1998 the NFPF has supported the preservation of more than 470 films and footage collections from 77 archives across 30 states and the District of Columbia. Many of the works are now reaching the public and building new audiences for documentaries, newsreels, avant-garde works, home movies, industrial films, and silent-era features and shorts. The following examples suggest how organizations are sharing their NFPF-funded preservation work here and abroad.

Harry Smith's avant-garde epic *Mahagonny*, preserved by the Harry Smith Archives, was the subject of a 2002 Getty Research Institute symposium. The four-screen portrait of the New York art scene in the late 1960s was later showcased at the Cinema Ritrovato festival in Bologna, Italy.



Traditional manufacture of maple sugar (1930s), from *Ojibwe Work: Four Films* by Monroe Killy, the new educational video publication and curriculum guide distributed by the Minnesota Historical Society through the state's tribal education system.

During World War II studio photographer Toyo Miyatake clandestinely shot movies while confined in the Japanese American detention facility at Manzanar. The Japanese American National Museum preserved his footage through the NFPF's Treasures of American Film Archives project and used it in a new documentary on the artist.

With NFPF support the Minnesota Historical Society preserved documentaries on the Ojibwe people made by ethnologist Monroe Killy. The society released video copies, along with a study guide, through the state's tribal education system to help schoolchildren learn how their ancestors lived and worked.

Northeast Historic Film exhibits on the Internet excerpts of *Maine Marine Worm Industry* (1942) and other films preserved through the NFPF. Users can purchase reference tapes or borrow them by mail.

At its 2002 Festival of Preservation, the UCLA Film and Television Archive screened 20 shorts and features preserved with NFPF support, including Sidney Laverents's *Multiple Sclerosis* (1970), a droll trick film selected for the National Film Registry, and Charles Burnett's *Several Friends* (1969), a portrait of African American life in South Central Los Angeles.

The Whitney Museum of American Art's recent exhibition *Into the Light* showcased a newly preserved copy of Paul Sharits's *Shutter Interface* (1975) as part of its exploration of the projected image in late-20th-century art.

Le Giornate del Cinema Muto, Italy's famed silent film festival, made the NFPF's Saving the Silents project a centerpiece last year and is hosting a second three-program salute in October 2002. Contributing newly preserved shorts and features are the George Eastman House, the Museum of Modern Art, and the UCLA Film and Television Archive.