

DANISH SILENT CLASSICS

The DANISH SILENT CLASSICS series on DVD provides access to the most significant titles of Danish silent cinema. The series both contains individual masterpieces as well as anthologies with prominent genres, actors and directors.

All titles are region 0 (PAL) with English intertitles.

The series is supported financially by The Danish Ministry of Culture, Filmkopi, Nordisk Film and Nordisk Film Fund.

ATLANTIS

AUGUST BLOM



A new HD transfer of the 1913 adaptation of Gerhard Hauptmann's novel by August Blom. An extra feature is the only known fragment of *Lebelei* (1914).

Based on the novel by Gerhart Hauptmann, Nordisk Film created this "Titanic" film merely a year after the disaster. Danish film scholar Casper Tybjerg states that Hauptmann's novel preceded the Titanic disaster by four weeks, nearly giving Hauptmann a status as profet. Later the same year Hauptmann was awarded the Nobel prize in literature. For the DVD a high definition scan was made from a restored negative and tinting was recreated using an abbreviated version from The National Film Center in Japan.

BENJAMIN CHRISTENSEN

SEALED ORDERS, BLIND JUSTICE



Contains Benjamin Christensen's two great films *Det hemmelighedsfulde X/Sealed Orders* (1914) and *Hævnens Nat/Blind Justice* (1916).

Benjamin Christensen (1879-1959) is probably the most innovative director of Danish silent cinema. Had had full control over the creation of his films, not only as a director, but also in many cases by being producer, author and protagonist. This DVD contains his first two films. These first films clearly show Benjamin Christensen's mastery of cinematic expression, as well as his charismatic screen appearance.

CARL TH. DREYER

ONCE UPON A TIME



Features the restoration of *Der var engang/Once upon a Time* (1922) by Casper Tybjerg and Thomas C. Christensen, adding stills and new titles to fill in the lost parts of the film.

This DVD is a new restoration of Carl Th. Dreyer's adaptation of Holger Drachmann's popular nationalistic play. Despite the loss of approximately half of the moving picture content, the surviving scenes can now be seen in a complete narrative. The remaining footage is now supported by still photos and new intertitles based primarily on original sources, which make up the complete narrative.

CARL TH. DREYER

THE PRESIDENT



Præsidenten/The President (1919) is Carl Th. Dreyer's first feature film.

This DVD edition is a restoration of Carl Th. Dreyer's first feature film as director. The source of this restoration, supervised by film historian Marguerite Engberg in 1999, is the original nitrate negative. Most silent films were positive cut with the negative ordered by the lightning designed for the scene, amber for daylight, blue for night and red for fire. The scan has been performed from a new tinted 35 mm print produced from the restored duplicate negative in continuity order.

THE FIRST FILM ARCHIVE

CONTAINS 70 SHORT ACTUALITY FILMS FROM THE PERIOD 1899 TO 1913



In celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Det danske Filmmuseum (Now: Danish Film Institute / Archive & Cinematheque) the first seventy films donated to the Danish State are published on this DVD: Twenty films donated by Royal Court Photographer Peter Elfelt, thirty one films given by founder of Nordisk Films Kompagni, Ole Olsen, and nineteen films given by the newspaper 'Politiken'. The films from 'Politiken' were produced with the specific purpose of creating a national film archive.

ALFRED LIND

THE FLYING CIRCUS, THE BEAR TAMER, DAREDEVIL OF THE MOVIES



The three films on this DVD, *Den flyvende Cirkus/The Flying Circus* (1912), *Bjørnetæmmeren/The Bear Tamer* (1912) and *Filmens Vovehals/Daredevil of the Movies* (1923) are the only films known to survive from the production company Scandinavian-Russian Trading Company.

The film company The Scandinavian-Russian Trading Company produced 25 feature films in the period 1911-13. The two films on this DVD are presumed to be the only surviving from The Scandinavian-Russian Trading Company. The company specialized in sensational topics, and the success of *The Flying Circus* was soon followed by its sequel, *The Bear Tamer*, in which Alfred Lind played the title role, wrote the script, directed and shot the film.

ASTA NIELSEN

THE ABYSS, THE BALLET DANCER, THE BLACK DREAM, TOWARDS THE LIGHT



Includes the four Danish feature films Asta Nielsen made in her native country: *Afgrunden/The Abyss* (1910), *Balletdanserinden/The Ballet Dancer* (1911), *Den sorte Dram/The Black Dream* (1911) and *Mod Lyset/Towards the Light* (1919).

Asta Nielsen is probably the greatest Danish film star. However, she only starred in four Danish films, all of which are on this DVD. *The Abyss* is by many regarded as not only the important debut of Asta Nielsen, but also the film that marks the early 1910's as the golden age of Danish cinema, with its feature length erotically charged melodramas. *The Abyss* is here presented in a digitally restored version with the inclusion of the Swedish censorship outtakes.

VALDEMAR PSILANDER

TEMPTATIONS OF A GREAT CITY, THE GREAT CIRCUS CATASTROPHE, THE CANDLE AND THE MOTH



Includes three feature films with the major Danish male star, Valdemar Psilander, directed by the top directors at Nordisk Films Co.: *Ved Fængslets Port/Temptations of a Great City* (August Blom, 1911), *Dødsspring til Hest fra Cirkuskuplen/The Great Circus Catastrophe* (Eduard Schnedler-Sørensen, 1912) and *Evangeliermandens Liv/The Candle and the Moth* (Holger-Madsen, 1915).

Valdemar Psilander (1884-1917) was probably the greatest male star of Danish silent cinema. He died in 1917, only 32 years old. He nevertheless acted in 83 films during his 6 years with Nordisk. The three films on this DVD are representative both of Psilander's qualities as an actor and the production of Nordisk during the most productive and successful years of Danish cinema.

A.W. SANDBERG

THE GOLDEN CLOWN, THE HILL PARK MYSTERY



Includes Sandberg's masterpiece *Klovenen/The Golden Clown* (1926) and the comedy *Nedbrudte Nerver/The Hill Park Mystery* (1923).

A.W. Sandberg was the leading director at the Nordisk Films Kompagni from 1916 until 1926. He broke with the company due to their lack of support of his financial dispositions in connection with the production of *The Golden Clown*. He finished the film on his own funds. *The Golden Clown* is one of the best international quality films in Danish silent cinema. The presented version is a new digital restoration tinted in HD. *The Hill Park Mystery* is digitally restored from the original camera negative, tinted according to the markings in the negative itself.

COMING RELEASES:

SCIENCE FICTION
CARL TH. DREYER:
LEAVES FROM SATAN'S BOOK
SHORT FICTION 1903-1910

THE DVDS ARE AVAILABLE FROM

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