

NEWS RELEASE

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RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES CLOSING NIGHT ATTRACTION: August 14, 2005

An Old Picture with a Modern Sound: 1926 Silent Film "The Black Pirate" Shown with Accompaniment by the Alloy Orchestra

PROVIDENCE, RI (July 28, 2005): In its ninth consecutive year, the Rhode Island International Film Festival will close on Sunday, August 14 with a showing of the newly restored full color (*2-strip Technicolor*) silent film *The Black Pirate*, starring Douglas Fairbanks. The screening will take place at the historic Columbus at 270 Broadway, Providence at 7:30 pm. Tickets will be \$15 and available on online, by phone or at the door.

The silent classic will be preceded by a showing of restored fragments of the recently rediscovered film *My Lady of the Lilacs*, made in Rhode Island in 1916 and written by the female screenwriting pioneer Beta Breuil. *The Black Pirate*, made in 1926 is a fitting selection to remind viewers of the history of filmmaking in connection with the Columbus Theatre's own beginning when it first opened its doors in the same year. The noted Alloy Orchestra will accompany the film's screening with a live performance of an originally composed score.

Directed by Albert Parker and written by Douglas Fairbanks, *The Black Pirate* is a fast paced pirate tale that shows Fairbanks in his best swashbuckling performance. Fairbanks plays the starring role as the Black Pirate, a former aristocrat who sets out to avenge his father's death by joining the crew of a pirate ship. It is an adventurous tale marking two of Fairbanks' most memorable moments on film; his descent to deck by slicing his way down the main sail of a ship on swordpoint, and the scene of the underwater army attack. Fairbanks' character even manages to save a princess during his seafaring quest for vengeance. William K. Everson of American Silent Film says of *The Black Pirate* that 'it wasn't a spoof, but it was much larger than life ... The titles lost the portentousness, of the prior Fairbanks films and became part of the fun. The basic unreality of the silent film enabled *The Black Pirate* to be violent, and to kid its own violence at the same time . . . ' The 84 minute-long feature is one of the first full-length films shot in two-tone Technicolor and boasts some of the silent era's most captivating footage. The film received an award as one of the "Ten Best of the Year," partly due to the time Fairbanks spent studying the artwork of the masters at the Huntington Art

Gallery in Pasadena in order to achieve the right color effects. A beautiful new print of *The Black Pirate* will be shown at the Columbus Theatre in the main screening room at 7:30 p.m.

Accompanying the theatrics of this silent film classic will be the Alloy Orchestra playing live. A three man musical ensemble, the Alloy Orchestra is well known as one of the best silent film accompanists in the world. The trio has performed at many cultural centers and film festivals in the US and worldwide. Some of the most famous of the Alloy Orchestra's performance venues have been Lincoln Center, The Telluride Film Festival and The Louvre.

The Alloy Orchestra has been together for twelve years and in that time frame has composed and premiered at least nine original scores at the prestigious Telluride Film Festival. The Orchestra also collaborates with film archives and collectors such as the Film Preservation Associates, the George Eastman House and the Rohauer Collection. In addition to silent film accompaniment the ensemble has composed soundtracks for commercial videos for companies such as IBM and UPS and have had their music featured in modern films and videos by directors like Errol Morris (*Fast, Cheap and Out of Control*) and Jane Gillyooly (*Dragonflies, The Baby Cries*).

With a varied assortment of percussion instruments, modern synthesizing equipment and their famous "rack of junk", the Alloy Orchestra can create almost any sound effect desired from a 1920's German bar band to a sentimental symphony piece. The Alloy Orchestra is said to give performances that are sensitive to the films they accompany and are consequently emotionally satisfying. To date the Orchestra has composed scores for fifteen feature length silent films other than *The Black Pirate* which include *The Lost World* (U.S., 1925), *Manslaughter*(U.S., 1922), *Metropolis* (German, 1926), *Nosferatu* (German, 1922), *Trip to the Moon* (France, 1904) and *A Man With a Movie Camera* (USSR, 1929) among others. The Alloy Orchestra will begin their musical performance in accordance with the start of the film at 7:30 p.m. It is truly an honor for Providence's Columbus Theatre to host such an accomplished trio of musicians and Rhode Island International Film Festival welcomes the public to come and join in the experience.

Advance ticket sales for screenings and special events will be available through the RIFF website (www.RIFilmFest.org) and www.ARTTixRI.com. Student, group, and senior discounts are available in advance. To purchase tickets or obtain more information about any aspect of RIFF, call 401-861-4445, toll free at 866-RFF-TIXS or log onto www.RIFilmFest.org.

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The Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIFF) is dedicated to the creation of opportunities for artistic interaction and exchange among independent filmmakers, directors, producers, distributors, backer, and the film-going community. The Flickers Arts Collaborative, an organization with 24 years of experience presenting major artistic events as well as independent and foreign films to the public produces the RIFF. For more information call or write RIFF at PO Box 162, Newport, RI 02840; email info@film-festival.org. Web: www.RIFilmFest.org.

