

RI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL NEWS

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RESTORED CLASSIC STARRING RUDOLF VALENTINO TO CLOSE-OUT 2006 RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

**"THE EAGLE," A MUCH LAUDED SILENT-ERA EPIC, AND NOW NEWLY RESTORED,
WILL FEATURE LIVE ACCOMPANIMENT BY THE ALLOW ORCHRESTA, SUNDAY,
AUGUST 13, 2006 AT 7.00 P.M.**

(PROVIDENCE, RI) Now celebrating its Tenth Year Anniversary, the **Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** will close its 2006 run on Sunday, August 13 with a special screening of Clarence Brown's silent film classic, *The Eagle* (United Artists, 1925), starring the film legendary Rudolph Valentino (1895-1926). The screening of a notable silent film continues the tradition that RIIFF started in 2001 to celebrate the historic Columbus Theatre Arts Center, the Festival's home, which was built in 1926.

"The Alloy Orchestra has done such an amazing job with its meticulous restorations and music compositions for classic silent films," stated Adam Short, RIIFF's Producing Director. "After the screening "The Black Pirate" last year with it's amazing two-strip Technicolor processing, we knew that we had the perfect way to end our festival.

"RIIFF presents work by young filmmakers who represent the future of world cinema. What could be better than to end the festival by celebrating the past which laid the foundation for the art form we have today," added Short.

ABOUT THE EAGLE

In this adventure story set in imperial Russia under the reign of Catherine II, Vladimir Dubrovsky (Valentino), a handsome young lieutenant in her majesty's imperial guard, comes to the notice of the Czarina (Louise Dresser) when he rescues a runaway carriage containing the beautiful Mascha Troekouroff (Vilma Banky) and her maiden Aunt Aurelia (Carrie Clark Ward). The Czarina offers to make him general, but when she attempts to seduce him, he is appalled and escapes. The Czarina puts a 5,000-ruble price on his head for his capture. After

receiving a letter from his father informing him that the cruel nobleman Kyrilla Troekoureff (James A. Marcus) is terrorizing the countryside, Dubrovsky runs to his aid, only to find his father dead and robbed of his estate, left to die in a peasant's hut. Vowing to avenge his father and protect the victimized peasantry, Dubrovsky abandons his military duties, assumes a black mask in the guise of a bandit and becomes the Black Eagle, a Robin Hood- or Zorro-like figure. In order to gain entrance to Kyrilla's home, Dubrovsky assumes the identity of Monsieur LeBlanc, a French tutor, and bides his time to avenge himself on the man responsible for his father's death. However, things change when he discovers that Kyrilla is Mascha's father.

The Eagle (1925) is old-fashioned screen entertainment based on Russian writer Pushkin's story, *Dubrovsky*, and two earlier film successes, *The Mark of Zorro* (1920) and *Robin Hood* (1922), both starring Douglas Fairbanks. As with Fairbanks', *The Eagle* is fast-paced and simply tongue-and-cheek, including some witty title readings such as "Revenge is sweet, but sometimes a girl is sweeter," or The Eagle's memorable maxim, "The Eagle does not war against women." Direction by Clarence Brown is first-rate, featuring fine camera style tracking over the long dinner table during a social function dinner scene at the home of Kyrilla. Along with some authentic dress designs, compliments of Adrian, this production also includes expensive set designs by William Cameron Menzies that help *The Eagle* capture the flavor of old imperial Russia. Dresser, with relatively little screen time, makes a very impressive Catherine II in her scene-stealing performance. Because Valentino and the Hungarian-born Vilma Banky worked so well together in *The Eagle*, they were reunited again in *The Son of the Sheik* (1926). Also featured in the cast are Albert Conti as Captain Kuschka; George Nichols as The Judge; and Michael Pleschkoff as the Captain of the Cossack Guard.

The new 35mm print has been completed with the new "High Silver" process, at Cinema Arts in Pennsylvania, by Janice Allen and Michael Kolvek.

THE ALLOY ORCHESTRA

Live accompaniment, with an original score, of this silent film classic is by the **Alloy Orchestra**, a three-man musical ensemble, renowned as one of the best silent film accompanists in the world. Performing at prestigious film festivals and cultural centers in the US and abroad (The Telluride Film Festival, The Louvre, Lincoln Center, The Academy of Motion Pictures, San Francisco, the National Gallery of Art, RIFF and others), Alloy has helped revive some of the great masterpieces of the silent era. An unusual combination of found percussion and state-of-the-art electronics gives the Orchestra the ability to create any sound imaginable. 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 or musical style desired from a 1920's German bar band to a sentimental symphony piece. As each musical score is composed with sensitivity to the film itself, it is said to be a beautiful, emotionally satisfying viewing experience.

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 Gillooly (*Dragonflies, The Baby Cries*). To date, the Orchestra has composed scores for fifteen feature-length silent films which include *The Lost World* (US, 1925), *Manslaughter* (US, 1922), *Metropolis* (German, 1926), *Nosferatu* (German, 1922), *Trip to the Moon* (France, 1904) and *A Man With a Movie Camera* (USSR, 1929), among others. It is truly an honor for Providence's Columbus Theatre to host such an accomplished trio of musicians.

The screening will take place at the historic **Columbus Theatre** at 270 Broadway, Providence at **7.00pm**. Tickets to the screening are \$15 and available online, by phone or at the door. To purchase tickets or obtain more information about any aspect of RIFF, contact the Festival office at 401/861-4445, email info@film-festival.org, or log onto the Festival website www.film-festival.org

Immediately following the Closing Night Screening of *The Eagle*, audience members are invited to join Festival filmmakers, guests, sponsors, and volunteers for our annual closing "Thank You" party at 9.30pm in the upstairs lobby and Cinémathèque of the Columbus Theatre Arts Center, 270 Broadway, Providence. In what promises to be an evening of mingling, music and fun, this intimate event will be a perfect way to bid farewell to the 2006 Festival. It is sure to be a festive end to this year's 10th Annual Season. Dress for the event is festive-casual. Tickets to the party can be purchased for \$35. Advance ticket sales for screenings and special events will be available through the RIFF website (www.film-festival.org) and www.ARTTixRI.com. Student, group, and senior discounts are available in advance.

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival** is supported in part by the City of Providence, the Providence Tourism Council, the Providence Department of Arts, Culture & Tourism, Clear Channel Communications, Sony, Rule Broadcast Systems, WJAR TV 10, the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, Amtrak, Providence Monthly, Radio Disney, Feinstein IMAX Providence Place, and contributions from members and community supporters.

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 RIFF.

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Providence, RI 02903; email info@film-festival.org. or log onto [www. RIFilmFest.org](http://www.RIFilmFest.org).*

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