

# The Museum of Modern Art

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## THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART HONORS CHARLES CHAPLIN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO CINEMA

Everyone understood loneliness, everyone looked for love, and everyone longed to kick someone in the butt. Chaplin elevated the most basic human needs and vulnerabilities to the highest levels of art. In the process, he touched more people, more deeply, than any artist in human history, and he is touching us still.

--Charles Silver\*

To pay tribute to the singular genius of Charles Chaplin (1889-1977) on the one-hundredth anniversary of his birth, The Museum of Modern Art presents CHAPLIN: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. The celebration includes a gallery exhibition, continuing through June 30, and a retrospective of Chaplin's films, showing at the Museum from April 14 to 27. An illustrated publication, Charles Chaplin: An Appreciation, by Charles Silver, supervisor, Film Study Center, discusses Chaplin's mature oeuvre, the feature films made from 1921 to 1967.

Chaplin, who was born on April 16, 1889, was one of the indisputable geniuses of the cinema. Its first complete auteur--actor, writer, director, producer, composer--he established precedents in the film industry for stardom, financial reward, and artistic independence. He created the timeless character the Tramp, a vagabond who was Everyman, and through him spoke a universal, though silent, language. Chaplin's movie career spanned fifty-four years, during which he made sixty-nine short films and twelve features.

Mary Corliss, assistant curator, Department of Film, has organized an exhibition of film-still enlargements and original posters illustrating Chaplin's career from the first short films he made for Mack Sennett's Keystone Film Company to the later features made for United Artists. A video display,

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Unknown Chaplin, Episode I, written and produced by Kevin Brownlow and David Gill, uses outtakes and rare footage to depict Chaplin's working methods during the production of the Mutual short films (1916-17).

Chaplin produced, wrote, and directed the films in the retrospective. The series opens on April 14 with The Chaplin Revue (1958), three shorter films made between 1918 and 1923 (A Dog's Life, Shoulder Arms, and The Pilgrim). All the feature films are included from The Kid (1921) to Chaplin's final film, A Countess from Hong Kong (1967). His masterpieces of silent comedy, such as The Gold Rush (1925), City Lights (1931), and Modern Times (1936), as well as the rarely shown melodrama A Woman of Paris (1923), are scheduled.

Chaplin's five sound films are also presented: The Great Dictator (1940), a brilliant and audacious satire on fascism; Monsieur Verdoux (1947), a controversial attack on capitalism; Limelight (1952), a lyrical romance; A King in New York (1957), an anti-McCarthy comedy; and A Countess from Hong Kong, a comic shipboard romance filmed in color. The film program was organized by Charles Silver.

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For further information or photographic materials, contact Sarah Eaton, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.

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## CHAPLIN: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

April 14 - 27, 1989

All films written, produced, and directed by Charles Chaplin.

### Film Schedule

#### Friday, April 14

- 2:30 p.m. The Chaplin Revue. 1958.  
The film consists of A Dog's Life (1918), Shoulder Arms (1918),  
and The Pilgrim, (1923).  
With Chaplin, Edna Purviance, Henry Bergman, Mack Swain.  
119 minutes.
- 6:00 p.m. Sunnyside. 1919.  
With Chaplin, Edna Purviance, Adolphe Menjou, Carl Miller.  
29 minutes.  
A Woman of Paris. 1923.  
With Edna Purviance, Adolphe Menjou, Carl Miller.  
81 minutes.

#### Saturday, April 15

- 12:00 p.m. The Idle Class. 1921.  
With Chaplin, Edna Purviance, Mack Swain.  
20 minutes.
- The Kid. 1921.  
With Chaplin, Jackie Coogan, Edna Purviance.  
60 minutes.
- 2:00 p.m. The Gold Rush. 1925.  
With Chaplin, Mack Swain, Georgia Hale.  
72 minutes.
- 5:00 p.m. The Chaplin Revue.  
See Friday, April 14.

#### Sunday, April 16

- 12:00 p.m. The Idle Class. The Kid.  
See Saturday, April 15.
- 2:00 p.m. Sunnyside. A Woman of Paris.  
See Friday, April 14.

5:00 p.m. The Circus. 1928.  
With Chaplin, Merna Kennedy, Allan Garcia.  
72 minutes.  
Introduction by Charles Silver, author, Charles Chaplin:  
An Appreciation.

Monday, April 17

2:30 p.m. The Circus.  
See Sunday, April 16.

6:00 p.m. The Gold Rush.  
See Saturday, April 15.

Tuesday, April 18

2:30 p.m. City Lights. 1931.  
With Chaplin, Virginia Cherrill, Harry Myers.  
86 minutes.

6:00 p.m. Modern Times. 1936.  
With Chaplin, Paulette Goddard, Chester Conklin.  
89 minutes.

Thursday, April 20

2:30 p.m. Monsieur Verdoux 1947.  
With Chaplin, Martha Raye, Isobel Elsom.  
123 minutes.

6:00 p.m. The Great Dictator. 1940.  
With Chaplin, Paulette Goddard, Jack Oakie, Billy Gilbert.  
128 minutes.

Saturday, April 22

2:00 p.m. Modern Times.  
See Tuesday, April 18.

5:00 p.m. City Lights.  
See Tuesday, April 18.

Sunday, April 23

2:00 p.m. The Great Dictator.  
See Thursday, April 20.

5:00 p.m. Monsieur Verdoux.  
See Thursday, April 20.

Monday, April 24

2:30 p.m. Limelight. 1952.  
With Chaplin, Claire Bloom, Sydney Chaplin, Buster Keaton.  
145 minutes.

6:00 p.m. A King in New York. 1957.  
With Chaplin, Michael Chaplin, Oliver Johnston, Dawn Addams.  
105 minutes.

Tuesday, April 25

2:30 p.m. A King in New York.  
See Monday, April 24.

6:00 p.m. A Countess from Hong Kong. 1967.  
With Marlon Brando, Sophia Loren, Sydney Chaplin, Tippi Hedren,  
Geraldine Chaplin.  
108 minutes. Color.

Thursday, April 27

2:30 p.m. A Countess from Hong Kong  
See Tuesday, April 25.

6:00 p.m. Limelight.  
See Monday, April 24.

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