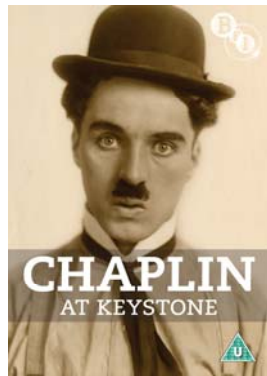


DVD press release



Chaplin at Keystone

A 4-disc DVD box set

This stunning collection of the 34 surviving Chaplin Keystone films is the result of an 8 year international restoration project to restore Chaplin's earliest films to as near to their original release versions as possible.

After being seen in Fred Karno's touring vaudeville troupe, Charlie Chaplin joined Mack Sennett's Keystone Film Company in late 1913. After a few initial uneasy steps, his rise was meteoric – making 35 films in a single year, directing more than half of them.

Reconstructed from the best surviving 35mm fragments from all over the world, the Chaplin Keystone films are a revelation, showing how Chaplin learned to apply his talent to film, how he developed the much loved 'Tramp' character and why he shot to stardom. A host of extras include the recent rediscovery of Chaplin's very first appearance on film in *A Thief Catcher* (1914).

This project is a partnership between the BFI National Archive, Cineteca Bologna/L'Immagine Ritrovata and Lobster Films, with the cooperation of UCLA Film and Television Archive, Library of Congress, and the support of Association Chaplin.

The films in this collection are presented with new musical accompaniments by international musicians including BFI Southbank regulars Neil Brand and Stephen Horne.

BFI National Archive curator and Chaplin expert Bryony Dixon, who was the BFI project leader and co-producer on this project, is available for interview.

Special features

- 58-page illustrated booklet written by the American film historian Jeffrey Vance which includes the essay 'Chaplin at Keystone: The Tramp is Born' and notes on every film
- *A Thief Catcher* (1914, 7 mins, extracts): a film recently rediscovered by Paul E Gierucki, with Chaplin as a Keystone Cop
- *Charlie's White Elephant* (1916, 6 mins): an animation by John Colman Terry and Hugh Shields featuring Chaplin
- *Inside the Keystone Project* (2010, 10 mins): a short documentary about international restoration efforts behind the films
- *Silent Traces* (2010, 12 mins): historian John Bengston on several of the Keystone locations
- Stills gallery

Release date: 6 December 2010

RRP: £29.99 / cat. no. BFIVD826 / cert U

USA / 1914 / black & white / silent with music / 561 mins / DVD9 x 4 /

Original aspect ratio 1.33:1

BFI DVDs are available from all good DVD retailers; by mail order from the BFI Filmstore

Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore

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