

access > CINEMA

and

JAMESON DUBLIN

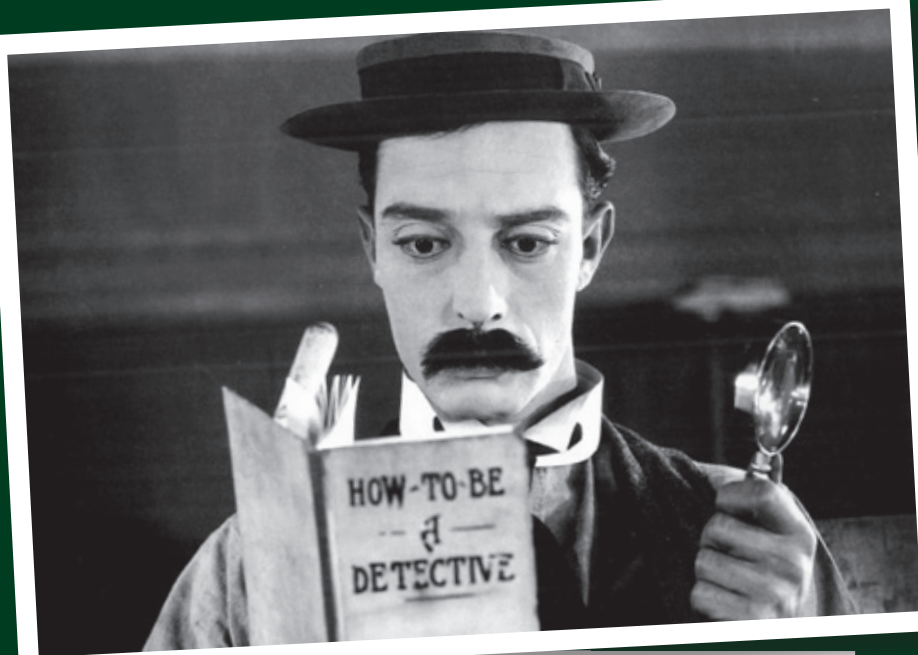
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

present

Buster Keaton

in

Sherlock Jr.



WITH MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT BY MORGAN COOKE

Director: Buster Keaton

USA | 1924 | 45 minutes | Cert: Club

“Keaton’s third feature under his own steam is an incredible technical accomplishment, but also an almost Pirandellian exploration of the nature of cinematic reality.”

Buster plays a cinema projectionist, framed for theft by a jealous rival for his girl’s hand, who daydreams himself into life as a daring detective. In an unforgettable sequence, Buster (actually fallen asleep beside the projector) forces his way onto the screen and into the movie he is projecting, only to find himself beset by perils and predicaments as the action around him changes in rapid montage. The sequence is not just a gag, but an astonishingly acute perception of the interaction between movie reality and audience fantasy, and the role of editing in juggling both.

The timing here is incredible (a technical marvel, in fact); even more so in the great chase sequence, a veritable cascade of unbelievably complex gags (like the moment when Buster, on the handlebars of a riderless, runaway motor-bike passing some ditch-digging roadworks, receives a spadeful of earth in the face from each oblivious navy in turn). It leaves Chaplin standing.

—*Time Out Film Guide*





Buster Keaton (b. 1895, Kansas) was the son of vaudeville performers and began performing at the age of 3. He remained with the family act until age 21 and in 1917 was invited to play a small role in *The Butcher Boy*, a two-reel comedy film directed by and starring “Fatty” Arbuckle. Fascinated with the technical aspects and creative possibilities of the medium of film, Keaton went to work as a supporting player for Arbuckle and spent the next two years learning every facet of motion-picture comedy. In 1920 Keaton launched his own two-reel series with *One Week* and later moved into starring features including *The Three Ages* (23), *Our Hospitality* (23) and *The Navigator*

(24). He was known for his deadpan expression and playing tricks with the camera, the latter particularly obvious in *The Playhouse* (21) and *Sherlock, Jr.* (24). His Civil War comedy *The General* (27), a financial disappointment when originally released, is today regarded as a masterpiece. The talkies eventually pushed him out of demand, but he made a comeback in the 1950s when he appeared as himself in *Sunset Boulevard* (50) and also starred in Chaplin’s *Limelight* (52). In 1960 he was awarded an honorary Academy Award for “his unique talents which brought immortal comedies to the screen”.



Morgan Cooke is an actor and musician living in Galway. He works as composer in residence and performer with Branar Drámaíochta, who do puppet theatre for children. He has also worked with Rough Magic, Blue Teapot, Taibhdhearc Na Gaillimhe, Bob Quinn, Mary Coughlan, Moonfish Theatre and Galway’s dancer in residence, Ríonach Ní Néill.

Morgan has been performing live, improvised soundtracks to silent movies since 2009, starting with *Metropolis*. Since then he has performed for *Faust*, *The O’Kalem Collection*, *Vampyr*, *Come On Over* and *The Passion Of Joan Of Arc*. Morgan is also a voicecover artist, and worked on TG4’s version of Jim Henson’s *Fraggle Rock*.





Garter Lane Arts Centre – *Waterford*

Saturday Feb 25: 7pm

Booking/information: (051) 855038 www.garterlane.ie



Athy Film Club – *Athy, Co. Kildare*

Sunday Feb 26: 4pm

Booking/information: 086 2112046 www.athyfilmclub.com



The Seamus Ennis Cultural Centre – *Naul, Co. Dublin*

Saturday Mar 03: 3pm

Booking/information: (01) 8020898 www.seamusenniscentre.com



Friars' Gate Theatre – *Kilmallock, Co. Limerick*

Sunday Mar 04: 3.30pm

Booking/information: (063) 98727 www.friarsgate.ie