

# FILM50

FIFTY YEARS OF COLLECTING FILM AT YALE

---

## For Immediate Release

---

Contact: Michael Kerbel  
Yale Film Study Center  
53 Wall Street, B-17  
New Haven CT 06511  
Phone: 203.432.0150  
Email: michael.kerbel@yale.edu  
Date: January 16, 2018

---

## Yale Celebrates Fifty Years of Collecting Film

*The Yale Film Study Center announces Film50: Fifty Years of Collecting Film at Yale*

---

**New Haven, CT – January 16, 2018** – Throughout 2018, Yale celebrates fifty years of collecting film, a practice that began with the University's acquisition of the John Griggs Collection of Classic Films in 1968. The Yale Film Study Center will present screenings in the spring and fall semesters as part of their project *Film50: Fifty Years of Collecting Film at Yale*. The screenings will be augmented by a website highlighting the past, present, and future of film collecting at Yale, with new material added to the site throughout the year. [library.yale.edu/film/50](http://library.yale.edu/film/50)

### History of Collecting Film at Yale

"Yale has begun its own film archives by acquiring the Griggs Collection of Classic Films, Provost Charles Taylor announced yesterday," wrote Reid Detchon in the *Yale Daily News* (April 5, 1968), also describing it as "one of the finest private collections of classic films in the country". Yale's acquisition of the collection generated national press coverage as well, with headlines such as "The Old Silent Films Make History at Yale" (*New York Post*, April 5, 1968) and "Chaplin, Keaton, Valentino Going To Yale—On Film" (*Chicago Sun-Times*, April 9, 1968). Later known as the Yale Collection of Classic Films, it consisted of more than 200 16mm prints, mostly American silent films such as *BROKEN BLOSSOMS*, *THE GOLD RUSH*, and *THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA*, and twenty films from abroad including *BATTLESHIP POTEMKIN*, *METROPOLIS*, and *THE*

PASSION OF JOAN OF ARC. It was brought to Yale through the generosity of donors Frederick W. Beinecke II, Chester LaRoche, and Richard Fuller, and during its first years at Yale it was under the supervision of Standish Lawder, an assistant professor of the history of art who taught the first film courses at Yale beginning in 1966.

Over the last 50 years, the University's film archive has grown to include nearly 6,000 35mm and 16mm titles spanning more than 120 years of cinema history. Overseen by the Yale Film Study Center, an Associate of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF), the collection continues to support teaching, learning, and research by Yale film scholars, and contributes to a robust film culture at Yale that includes an extensive exhibition schedule and a growing film preservation program.

### **Yale Collection of Classic Films: 50th Anniversary Screening**

As part of the ongoing *Treasures from the Yale Film Archive* screening series, the public is invited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the acquisition of Yale's first film collection with a screening on Friday, February 23. The night will feature 16mm selections from the original collection, including THE MARK OF ZORRO with Douglas Fairbanks and THE BALLOONATIC with Buster Keaton, presented with live musical accompaniment by renowned pianist Donald Sosin.

Time/Date: 7p.m. Friday, February 23  
Location: Whitney Humanities Center  
53 Wall Street  
New Haven, CT 06511

"Yale Collection of Classic Films: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Screening" is one of seven *Treasures* screenings in January and February, with additional events to be announced throughout 2018. The series, which features 35mm and some 16mm prints from Yale's collection, is presented by the Yale Film Study Center and Films at the Whitney with support from Paul L. Joskow '70 M.Phil., '72 Ph.D. All *Treasures* screenings are free and open to the public.  
[library.yale.edu/film/treasures](http://library.yale.edu/film/treasures)

### **About the Yale Film Study Center**

The Yale Film Study Center supports teaching, learning, and research, and fosters a robust film culture at Yale through collection, preservation, access, and exhibition. A part of the Yale University Library system since July 1, 2017, the Center pursues its mission by building and maintaining an archive of 35mm, 16mm, 8mm, and Super 8mm film prints and negatives; maintaining a growing collection of media in a variety of video formats (including DVD, Blu-ray, VHS, and LaserDiscs); providing on-site viewing facilities; supporting the use of film in teaching and learning through classroom showings and individual research; performing film conservation and preservation work; and presenting screenings and related events to the Yale community and the public. [library.yale.edu/film](http://library.yale.edu/film)

###