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PHOTO CREDIT: Courtesy of Sierra Madre Playhouse

PHOTO CAPTION: Sierra Madre Playhouse celebrates its milestone centennial with a two-day multi-faceted silent film festival featuring five iconic silent films, a free community event, and “The Bees Knees” gala centennial celebration, February 3 and 4, 2024.

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**Sierra Madre Playhouse**

**Celebrates Its Milestone 100th Anniversary in Grand Style with
Two-Day Silent Film Festival**

**Saturday and Sunday, February 3 and 4, 2024, noon – 8 pm**

**Festival Overview:**

* **Multifaceted Anniversary Event Includes Five Iconic Silent Films, a FREE Community Event, and “The Bees Knees,” a Roaring 20s-Themed Gala Centennial Celebration, Champagne Dinner and Speakeasy Embracing the Venue’s Roots as a Glamorous Silent Movie House and Honoring Suzanne Lloyd, the Beloved Granddaughter of Silent Film Legend Harold Lloyd;**
* **Films, Curated and Introduced by Noted Film Historian Lara Gabrielle, Include Three Harold Lloyd Movies Directed by Frank Newmeyer and Sam Taylor – *Safety Last!***, ***Hot Water*, and *Girl Shy*; *Helen’s Babies* directed by William Seiter; and Buster Keaton’s *Sherlock, Jr.*; Plus a Selection of Comedy Shorts by Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton;**
* **Virtuosic Pianist Frederick Hodges Provides Accompaniment for Each Cinematic Gem;**
* **Tickets Are $19.24 Per Screening, in Honor of the Year the Venue Opened, or $77 for All Five Films, and $100 for “The Bees Knees” Gala Celebration (Includes Admission to *Safety Last!*, and *Hot Water*, a Discussion with Gala Honoree Suzanne Lloyd, Trustee of Harold Lloyd’s Film Library, Champagne Dinner and Speakeasy; Guests Are Encouraged to Dress in Festive 1920s Attire)**

**(Sierra Madre, CA – January 10, 2024)** The historic **Sierra Madre Playhouse,** which opened as a silent movie theater in 1924, celebrates its milestone 100th Anniversary in grand style, returning to the golden age of cinema, when silent pictures reigned supreme and the elegance, glitz, and mystique of the Roaring 20s captivated the nation, with a two-day film festival, on February 3 and 4, 2024, noon – 8 pm. The multifaceted event, which launches with a free community event, includes five iconic silent films featuring live accompaniment by celebrated pianist **Frederick Hodges**, and **“The Bees Knees,”** a Roaring 20s-inspired gala centennial celebration with a **Harold Lloyd** double bill, champagne dinner and speakeasy, honoring **Suzanne Lloyd**, Harold Lloyd’s granddaughter and trustee of his extensive film library.

Evolving over the decades from its movie house origins, today Sierra Madre Playhouse is a historical landmark, featuring its original distinctive façade and instantly-recognizable neon marquee, that presents a wide array of bold and distinctive programming, including theater, music, film, comedy, and family-friendly offerings.

The wide-ranging weekend-long anniversary celebration launches with an **admission-free screening of silent comedy shorts** by Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton. The community event is presented in recognition of and gratitude for the tremendous support Sierra Madre Playhouse has received from Southern California audiences over the past century. (February 3, noon; free, reservations required).

The festival’s feature film line-up showcases **five iconic silent movies,** among them three Harold Lloyd comedies directed by Frank Newmeyer and Sam Taylor, ***Safety Last!*** (80 minutes), ***Hot Water*** (59 minutes), and ***Girl Shy*** (89 minutes), as well as ***Helen’s Babies*** (85 minutes), directed by William Seiter, and Buster Keaton’s ***Sherlock, Jr.*** (45 minutes). Virtuosic pianist **Frederick Hodges** will provide live accompaniment for each cinematic gem and noted film historian **Lara Gabrielle**, the festival’s curator, will introduce them. (February 3, 4 pm, 8 pm, and February 4, noon, 4 pm, 8 pm.)

Adding flair and glamour to the festivities is “**The Bees Knees,”** a roaring 20s-themed gala centennial celebration embracing the venue’s roots as a fabled silent movie house and honoring Suzanne Lloyd, a film preservationist who serves as trustee of her grandfather Harold Lloyd’s film library and extensive 3D library of more than 200,000 photographs. The event includes admission to a Harold Lloyd double bill of ***Safety Last!*** and ***Hot Water***,plus a round-table discussion with Suzanne Lloyd. Between films, guests, encouraged to dress in festive 1920s attire, such as flapper dresses, sequin headbands, pearl necklaces, feather boas, fedoras and bowler hats, will parade across the street to the restaurant Roe Fusion to enjoy a **gala champagne dinner** and **speakeasy** with themed cocktails and menu harkening back to the Roaring 20s. (February 3, 4 pm.)

Sierra Madre Playhouse Board Chair **David Gordon**, who is also chairing “The Bees Knees” gala celebration, says, “We invite the entire community to the silent film festival to celebrate Sierra Madre Playhouse’s milestone 100th anniversary! With the wide range of events featured, there’s something for everyone. We are thrilled to honor the deep and lasting roots, colorful history and important cultural role of this magnificent venue that has evolved into the award-winning Sierra Madre Playhouse. It is one of Southern California’s enduring cultural treasures, and today its expansive array of live performances and film programs continue to delight audiences of all ages. The silent film festival is truly a fitting tribute to the ‘Grande Dame’ of Sierra Madre.”

Tickets to Sierra Madre Playhouse’s silent film festival are $19.24 per screening, in honor of the year the theatre opened, or $77 for all five feature films, and $100 for “The Bees Knees” gala celebration.

For information and tickets on the silent film festival and “The Bees Knees” gala centennial celebration, please call 626.355.4318 or visit [www.sierramadreplayhouse.org](http://www.sierramadreplayhouse.org). Sierra Madre Playhouse is located at 87 West Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

***Full Silent Film Festival Schedule and Film Descriptions below.***

**EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**WHAT:**Sierra Madre Playhouse Celebrates 100th Anniversary with a Two-Day Silent Film Festival and “The Bees Knees” Centennial Gala Celebration

Lara Gabrielle, festival curator and host

Frederick Hodges, piano accompaniment

Suzanne Lloyd, “The Bees Knees” centennial gala celebration honoree

**WHERE:**

Sierra Madre Playhouse

87 West Sierra Madre Boulevard

Sierra Madre, CA 91024

**TICKET PRICES:**

* **Film Festival tickets**: $19.24 per film (in honor of the year the theatre opened) or $77 for all five films;
* **“The Bees Knees” Centennial Gala Celebration tickets**: $100 per person (includes gala champagne dinner and speakeasy, admission to screenings of Harold Lloyd’s iconic films *Safety Last!*, and *Hot Water*, plus round-table discussion with gala honoree Suzanne Lloyd, granddaughter of Harold Lloyd and trustee of his film library)

**INFORMATION AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS:**

626.355.4318

[www.sierramadreplayhouse.org](http://www.sierramadreplayhouse.org)

**SCHEDULE FOR THE TWO-DAY SILENT FILM FESTIAL:**

**Comedy Shorts - February 3, 2024, 12 PM (FREE COMMUNITY KICKOFF EVENT)**
Comedy shorts by Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton (60 mins)

***Safety Last!* – February 3, 2024, 4 PM***Safety Last!* (80 mins), starring Harold Lloyd, directed by Frank Newmeyer and Sam Taylor. This silent romantic comedy follows country boy Harold Lloyd (Harold Lloyd) who moves to the big city to make it big so he can have his sweetheart (Mildred Davis) join him and marry him. Some wild heart-stopping adventures ensue, including one of the most iconic scenes in silent film history. *Vanity Fair* declares, *Safety Last!,* with its extraordinary scene of “the guy in the glasses, hanging from the clock” ten stories off the ground, “has come to symbolize silent film.” *The New York Times* calls it “one of the most enduring images from the silent film era.”

**“The Bees Knees” Gala Centennial Celebration (SPECIAL EVENT) – February 3, 2024, 4 PM**

This special event includes admission to the gala champagne dinner and speakeasy, plus screenings of Harold Lloyd’s iconic films *Safety Last!*, and *Hot Water* and a round-table discussion with gala honoree Suzanne Lloyd, granddaughter of Harold Lloyd and trustee of his film library and extensive 3D library.

***Hot Water* - February 3, 2024, 8 PM**
Hot Water (59 mins), starring Harold Lloyd, directed by Frank Newmeyer and Sam Taylor. The episodic movie features three distinct segments in the life of Hubby (Harold Lloyd) dealing with domestic life and in-laws.

***Girl Shy* - February 4, 2024, 12 PM**
*Girl Shy* (89 mins), starring Harold Lloyd, directed by Frank Newmeyer and Sam Taylor. The film centers around Harold Meadows, a tailor's apprentice who is extremely shy around women. He writes a "how to" book for young men titled "The Secret of Making Love," which humorously details wooing different types of women, and he goes on a journey to get it published.

***Helen’s Babies* - February 4, 2024, 4 PM**
*Helen’s Babies* (85 mins), starring Baby Peggy, directed by William Seiter; includes Buster Keaton's works. Harry, trying to win the affection of the Lawrence's neighbor Alice, ends up in a series of comical situations.

***Sherlock, Jr.* - February 4, 2024, 8 PM**
*Sherlock, Jr.* (45 mins), starring and directed by Buster Keaton. Buster, a movie theater projectionist and janitor, dreams of being a detective. He faces rivalry for the affections of a woman and is mistakenly accused of theft, leading to a dream sequence where he becomes Sherlock Jr., a detective in a movie.

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**ABOUT SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE**Sierra Madre Playhouse, a vibrant Southern California cultural hub with a rich history spanning nearly a century, energizes audiences and the community with distinctive theatrical productions and captivating live performances. Hailed as a “jewel” (*Pasadena Weekly*) and “a landmark theater” (*ABC7 Los Angeles*), it has garnered tremendous accolades for its varied repertoire and thought-provoking education and outreach programs curated with social impact in mind. The *Los Angeles Times* proclaims, “This is theater from the heart.” As one of San Gabriel Valley’s only performing arts center presenting a broad spectrum of performance genres, including theater, music, dance, film, comedy, and family-friendly productions featuring eminent local and national professional artists, the treasured artistic beacon draws audiences from across the Southland. The intimate 99-seat Sierra Madre Playhouse offers an up-close and personal connection to performances that resonate deeply, earning multiple Ovation Awards, NAACP Awards, and LA Times Critics' Choice honors. It is nestled into a historic building on the inviting Main Street of Sierra Madre, a charming village in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. Retaining its distinctive movie theater façade and instantly recognizable marquee, the structure has undergone numerous transformations since opening in 1910, from furniture emporium to silent movie theatre to the artistic institution that now stands as a vibrant embodiment of the region’s rich cultural legacy. The Sierra Madre Playhouse fosters creativity that aspires to bridge divides and spark dialogue, all while celebrating the rich tapestry of the American experience and the enduring pursuit of shared understanding.

**ABOUT GALA HONOREE SUZANNE LLOYD**

Suzanne Lloyd, the granddaughter of Harold and Mildred Lloyd, was raised at their Beverly Hills estate, Greenacres. Harold Lloyd, the master comedian who produced and starred in more than 200 films, came to personify silent films as “the man in glasses hanging from the clock.”

Harold recognized Suzanne’s aptitude for business, trained her well, and when he died in 1971, made the 19-year-old the trustee of his film library and 3D library that holds more than 200,000 photographs. Suzanne has devoted herself to film preservation ever since, and keeps her grandfather’s films alive by sharing his work with the world. She introduced the newly restored Speedy at the Tribeca Film Festival with DJ Z-Trip, the American Film Institute’s 50th Anniversary Festival, the Bologna Film Festival, the San Francisco Silent Film Festival, and in 2015, made seven features and eight shorts available on iTunes in various languages in more than 15 countries (many for the first time). In 2016, she did numerous shows with the Academy of Motion Picture Art and Sciences with Harold’s extraordinary 3D library, presenting rare, 3D photographs of opening day and the early years of Disneyland. Suzanne and Cinesite Studios are currently in partnership working to animate Harold for the first time.

Suzanne served on the Board of the American Film Institute as a trustee for more than 20 years, and has published three books. She works closely with Criterion, The Packard Humanities Institute, and the UCLA Film and Television Archive on the restoration of the library. She has produced the releases of *Safety Last!,* *The Freshman*, and *Speedy*, and is currently working on *The Kid Brother* to be released by the end of the year.

**ABOUT FILM CURATOR LARA GABRIELLE
Lara Gabrielle** is a film writer and researcher whose work on Marion Davies has been featured in the Missouri Review and on PBS’s American Experience. She has spoken about Davies at film festivals and retrospectives worldwide and has served as a consultant on her life and legacy for books, dissertations, and film projects. Gabrielle lives in Oakland.

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