



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage  
PRESENTS

**GOTTA DANCE**

**A SURVEY OF THE AMERICAN FILM MUSICAL, JANUARY THROUGH MAY 2012**

*High resolution photos available on request.*

(BOSTON) **ArtsEmerson: The World On Stage** continues its second season of adventurous, independent and repertory films with **Gotta Dance: The American Movie Musical 1929-1953**, an eclectic survey of the American film musical, beginning in January and continuing through May 2012. Films are screened at Emerson College's Paramount Center (559 Washington St., Boston), in the Bright Family Screening Room. Tickets are \$10, or \$7.50 for members, and are available in advance at [www.ArtsEmerson.org](http://www.ArtsEmerson.org), or by calling 617-824-8400. Discounted tickets for seniors are \$7.50, and \$5 for all students with valid ID and children under 18. Discounted tickets are available in person at the Box Office only. For more information visit [www.ArtsEmerson.org](http://www.ArtsEmerson.org).

During the first months of 2012, (and leading up to *Café Variations*, a live theatre celebration of the American musical song book receiving its world premiere at the Cutler Majestic in April) ArtsEmerson presents an eclectic survey of a genre whose uniquely American exuberance and optimism entertained audiences through the dark years of the Great Depression. These weekly screenings will include restorations and rare archival prints of titles ranging from well-loved classics such as *An American in Paris* (1951) to lesser-known B-musicals and intriguing entries produced outside Hollywood.

January begins at the beginning with the ground-breaking *The Broadway Melody* (1929) and simultaneously looks forward to the height of the genre, pairing the 1929 sensation with *Singin' in the Rain* (1952), whose ties to the early musical transcend their shared song books. The following week offers two rare musicals starring "America's favorite love birds" Janet Gaynor and Charles Farrell, early examples of Hollywood's exploration of song and dance beyond the backstage milieu so popular in the musical's first few years.

Friday, Jan. 20, 6 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 22 at 2 p.m.

***The Broadway Melody***

Directed by Harry Beaumont

With Bessie Love, Anita Page, Charles King

U.S. 1929, 35mm, black and white, 105 minutes

Before he helmed MGM's legendary Freed Unit, Arthur Freed was a songwriter, first notably with Nacio Herb Brown for *The Broadway Melody*, which introduced "You Were Meant for Me" and other hits sung decades later in *Singin' in the Rain*. MGM's first "all-talking musical"—and the first sound film to win a Best Picture Oscar—follows a vaudeville sister act (silent-film star Love and 17-year-old Page) who are beckoned by a friend (King, a Broadway leading man of the day) to New York, where they seek fame on Broadway—and find themselves entangled in a love triangle. *Restored by George Eastman House; Print courtesy of Academy Film Archive.*

*Introduction by Classical Music Critic (Fresh Air, NPR) and Classical Music Editor (Boston Phoenix) Lloyd Schwartz—Friday Only.*

*Special event pricing: \$15 for two films—Friday only.*

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Friday, Jan. 20, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21, 2 p.m.

***Singin' in the Rain***

Directed by Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly

With Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds, Donald O'Connor

U.S. 1952, 35mm, color, 102 minutes

One of the greatest screen musicals ever made, *Singin' in the Rain* looks back at the swiftly changing landscape of Hollywood late 20's filmmaking, when the advent of sound threatened the careers of a generation of film stars. A Freed Unit production par excellence, the film revives early Freed songs including *The Broadway Melody's* "You Are My Lucky Star," and casts Gene Kelly as silent movie idol Don Lockwood. With show-stopping numbers "Make 'Em Laugh" and the magnificent Cyd Charisse's "Broadway Melody" ballet, this is Hollywood musical entertainment at its most sublime.

*Special event pricing: \$15 for two films—Friday only.*

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Saturday, Jan. 28, 2 and 6 p.m.

***Sunnyside Up***— Not Available on DVD! Restoration print

Directed by David Butler

With Janet Gaynor, Charles Farrell, Marjorie White

U.S. 1929, 35mm, black and white, 121 minutes

Silent-film ingénue Janet Gaynor successfully made the transition to sound in this contemporary musical comedy. As a spunky working girl who dreams of marrying rich, Gaynor plays opposite Charles Farrell, and the powerful screen chemistry between the two actors—"America's favorite lovebirds"—is unmistakable. Billed as "the screen's first original all talking, singing, dancing musical comedy," the picture opens with a virtuoso crane shot exploring a crowded NYC tenement street and features the show-stopping number "Turn on the Heat," in which nubile chorus girls transform an Arctic tundra into a tropical jungle.

Saturday, Jan. 28, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 29, 2 p.m.

***Delicious***— Not Available on DVD. New print.

Directed by David Butler

With Janet Gaynor, Charles Farrell, El Brendel

U.S. 1931, 35mm, black and white, 106 minutes

George Gershwin's first original screen musical stars the popular romantic duo of Gaynor and Farrell in an immigrant saga about a Scottish lass who falls for a wealthy polo enthusiast. Gaynor serves as the focal point for the film's marvelously stylized set pieces, including "New York Rhapsody," an impressionistic urban tour that emphasizes the fear and alienation of the big city as Gaynor wanders despairingly around Manhattan; in expanded form it would enter the American repertory as Gershwin's "Second Rhapsody." (Pacific Film Archive)

Feb. 4

### **African-American Representation on the Silver Screen**

In honor of Black History Month, **Gotta Dance** pairs an early Hollywood all-black cast musical with an independent race film musical by the pioneering African-American director Oscar Micheaux.

Saturday, Feb. 4, 6:30 p.m.

*Hearts in Dixie* – Rare Archival Print

Directed by Paul Sloane

With Clarence Muse, Eugene Jackson, Stepin Fetchit

U.S. 1929, 16mm, black and white, 72 minutes

Saturday, Feb. 4, 8 p.m.

*"Swing!"* – Rare Archival Print

Directed by Oscar Micheaux

With Cora Green, Larry Seymour, Hazel Diaz

U.S. 1938, 16mm, black and white, 69 minutes

Saturday, Feb. 10, 5:45 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 12, 2 p.m.

*Love Me Tonight* – Restoration Print

Directed by Rouben Mamoulian

With Jeanette MacDonald, Maurice Chevalier, Charles Ruggles

U.S. 1932, 35mm, black and white, 88 minutes

Friday, Feb. 17, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 19, 2 p.m.

*The Merry Widow*

Directed by Ernst Lubitsch

With Maurice Chevalier, Jeanette MacDonald, Edward Everett Horton

U.S. 1934, 35mm, black and white, 95 minutes

February 24-26

### **Happy Birthday Paramount!**

The Paramount Theatre first opened on Feb. 25, 1932 with Josef von Sternberg's *Shanghai Express*. In celebration of this history, ArtsEmerson screened *Shanghai Express* at the Paramount Center's grand public re-opening in 2010, beginning a tradition whereby each February ArtsEmerson will move through history a year at a time, selecting a film produced by Paramount

Pictures. Last season, it was 1932; this season ArtsEmerson presents two fascinating B musicals (one Paramount, one Universal) from 1933.

Friday, Feb. 24, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 25, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 26, 2 p.m.

*Moonlight And Pretzels*

Directed By Karl Freund and Monte Brice

With Leo Carrillo, Mary Brian, Roger Pryor

U.S. 1933, 35mm, black and white, 75 minutes

Friday, Feb. 24, 8:15 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m.

*Torch Singer*

Directed by Alexander Hall and George Somnes

With Claudette Colbert, David Manners, Ricardo Cortez

U.S. 1933, 35mm, black and white, 74 minutes

Friday, Mar. 2

*Footlight Parade*

Directed by Lloyd Bacon

U.S. 1933, 35mm, black and white, 104 min.

With James Cagney, Joan Blondell, Ruby Keeler

Saturday, Mar. 10

*Kid Millions*

Directed by Roy Del Ruth

With Eddie Cantor, Ann Sothorn, Ethel Merman

U.S. 1934, 35mm, black and white and color, 90 minutes

Saturday, Mar. 16

*Bright Eyes*

Directed by David Butler

With Shirley Temple, James Dunn, Jane Darwell

U.S. 1934, 35mm, black and white, 85 minutes

Friday, Mar. 23 - Sunday, Mar. 25

This program matches the debonair Fred Astaire with Leo Fuchs, his Yiddish counterpart, dancing in Edgar G. Ulmer's charming 1940 "ethnic film" *American Matchmaker*.

*Top Hat*

Directed by Mark Sandrich

With Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Edward Everett Horton

U.S. 1935, 35mm, black and white, 101 minutes

*American Matchmaker* – Restored Print!

Directed by Edgar G. Ulmer

With Leo Fuchs, Judith Abarbanel, Judel Dubinsky

U.S. 1940, 35mm, black and white, 87 minutes  
Yiddish with English subtitles

Friday, Mar. 30

*The Great Ziegfeld*

Directed by Robert Z. Leonard

With William Powell, Myrna Loy, Luise Rainer

U.S. 1936, 35mm, black and white, 176 minutes

April and May screenings will include *Strike Up the Band* (dir. by Busby Berkeley); *An American in Paris* (dir. by Vincente Minnelli); *The Band Wagon* (dir. Vincente Minnelli); *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (dir. by Howard Hawks). Dates and times to be announced.

### **About ArtsEmerson**

ArtsEmerson is the organization established by Emerson College to program the Paramount Paramount Mainstage, Cutler Majestic Theatre and other venues at Emerson's Paramount Center. The inaugural season includes over 100 performances of 18 different productions, including world premieres, Boston debuts and works being developed in the new facilities created by Emerson College. ArtsEmerson, under the artistic leadership of Rob Orchard, will give Boston audiences a new level of cultural choice, bringing professional American and international work to its four distinct venues: the beautifully restored 590-seat Paramount Mainstage; the versatile, intimate Jackie Liebergott Black Box Theatre ("The Jackie"), which can seat up to 150 people; the state-of-the-art 170-seat Bright Family Screening Room (all located within the new Paramount Center a cornerstone in the revitalization of downtown Boston); and the beloved, historic 1,186-seat Cutler Majestic Theatre in the heart of the Theatre District, fully restored by Emerson in 2003. For more information, visit [www.artsemerson.org](http://www.artsemerson.org).

### **About Emerson College**

Located in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson is the only four-year private college in the United States devoted to teaching communication and the arts in a liberal arts context. The College has 3,453 undergraduates and 837 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 60 student organizations and performance groups, 14 NCAA teams, student publications, honor societies, television stations including the Emerson Channel, and WERS-FM, the nation's highest rated student-run radio station. Emerson is internationally known for its study and internship programs in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., the Netherlands, China, and the Czech Republic. For more information, visit [www.emerson.edu](http://www.emerson.edu).

-30-

On sale now at ArtsEmerson:

January 20—29, 2012, **SUGAR – World Premiere**, Jackie Liebergott Black Box, Paramount Center

February 7 —12, 2012, **69°S. (The Shackleton Project)**, Paramount Center Mainstage

February 29 —March 4, 2012, **CIRCA**, Paramount Center Mainstage (Co-presented with Celebrity Series of Boston)

March 13—18, 2012, **AMERIVILLE**, Paramount Center Mainstage

March 24—April 1, 2012, ***THE ANDERSEN PROJECT*** – Robert Lepage/Ex Machina, Cutler Majestic Theatre

March 29—April 1, 2012, ***TOMÁŠ KUBÍNEK: CERTIFIED LUNATIC & MASTER OF THE IMPOSSIBLE***, Paramount Mainstage

April 13—22, 2012, ***CAFÉ VARIATIONS***, Cutler Majestic Theatre

For a complete list of film programming in the Bright Family Screening Room, visit <http://bit.ly/aecinema>