

Those Slap-Happy Screamsters Go A'haunting!

Saturday, October 23 at 2 & 8 pm only

Abbott and Costello's

Hold That Ghost

In late 1941 Milton Berle was said to have quipped, "Things are slow in Hollywood. Abbott and Costello haven't made a picture all day." And he was right.

After the smash success of their first starring feature, *Buck Privates*, (1941) burlesque and radio comics Bud Abbott and Lou Costello were the number one box office attraction in the country--and literally saved Universal Studios from bankruptcy. In fact, the only movie that outgrossed *Buck Privates* at the time was *Gone with the Wind*. Anxious to keep the team working, Universal Studios had already completed production on their next film, a non-music spoof of two popular film genres of the era--the Haunted House movie and Gangster melodrama--then titled *Oh Charlie!* (a reference to a running gag in the film where a dead gangster's body keeps turning up). But when the huge box office returns from *Buck Privates* began rolling in, Universal temporarily shelved *Oh Charlie!* to put the team in another service themed follow-up, *In the Navy*. When they returned to *Oh Charlie!*, Universal discovered test audiences for the film wondered why the Andrews Sisters, who had been in the two previous hits, were absent in this one. So additional re-shoots were required to include the trio, now making it a horror/ comedy, with a couple of songs thrown in. The title was eventually changed to *Hold That Ghost* and became the third smash hit for Abbott and Costello that year, continuing a string of successes that would keep them among the top box office attractions for the next ten years and would also serve as the inspiration for another classic, 1948's *Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein*. ■



**Bud Abbott
Lou Costello**



Directed by
Arthur Lubin

Screenplay by
Robert Lees & Fred Rinaldo & John Grant

The Cast:

Richard Carlson – had appeared in Bob Hope's haunted house comedy, *The Ghost Breakers* in 1940. In the 1950's Carlson would star in the sci-fi classics *It Came From Outer Space* and *Creature From The Black Lagoon*.

Joan Davis – A vaudevillian since childhood, Joan made her film debut in Mack Sennett two-reelers. In the 1940's she starred in the very popular radio series, *I Married Joan*, which successfully made the transition to television in the 1950's.

Evelyn Ankers – *Hold That Ghost*, her second American film, was a portent of things to come: later in 1941 she was cast in *The Wolf Man* and *The Ghost of Frankenstein*, earning her the dubious title, "Queen of the Horrors."

ALEX
FILM SOCIETY

Alex Film Society

PO Box 4807,
Glendale, CA 91222
818-754-8250

©2010 AFS

www.AlexFilmSociety.org see our calendar of events on-line and join the AFS email list.

Alex Film Society presents
Hold That Ghost
 October 23, 2010, 2 & 8 pm



Short Subject: **A Tale of Two Kitties**

Warner Bros. Merrie Melodies – 1942

Directed by Robert Clampett
 Produced by..... Leon Schlesinger
 Written by Warren Foster
 Animated by Rod Scribner

Tweety Bird (here called 'Orson') in his first screen appearance. Print courtesy of Warner Bros. Classics Division.

Coming Events

Our 13th **Fun? Soitenly!**
Three StooGes®
BIG SCREEN EVENT!

Saturday, **November 27** at 2 & 8 pm only

Slapped from the Headlines!

**Health Care Pills,
 Immigration Skills,
 Political Thrills,
 Housing Chills, and Oil Spills!**



Stooges fans of all ages make our annual "Stooge-Fest" part of their Thanksgiving tradition. This year titles include: **Dizzy Doctors** (1937), **What's the Matador?** (1942), **Three Dark Horses** (1952) and **Oily to Bed, Oily to Rise** (1939). Not to be missed!

NEW EVENT!

Alex Film Society Presents
 the **GREATEST**
CARTOONS EVER!
 Cartoon Hall of Fame Big Screen Event

Just in Time for the post-Christmas blahs, AFS celebrates the first annual Cartoon Hall of Fame with a selection of classic cartoon shorts on the Big Screen. Join us for our new holiday tradition.

Titles include: **The Rabbit of Seville**, **The Band Concert**, **One Froggy Evening** and more!

Film Society Donors

**David & Catherine Strohmaier
 Bernard Vyzga**

**Laura Richarz
 Randy & Janice Carter
 Richard & Barbara Council
 Michael & Felice Feinstein
 Richard Webster & Kim Kenne**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 10_10
 mail with check to: **ALEX FILM SOCIETY**
 P. O. Box 4807, Glendale, CA 91222-0807

Name(s)
 (please print) _____

Org/Business _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip+4 _____

Home Phone _____

Day Phone _____

E-Mail _____

- I (WE) CAN VOLUNTEER, Please call.
- Enclosed is my (our) donation of \$
 - Sustaining Member – \$500 Dual/Family – \$50
 10 discounted tickets per show 4 discounted tickets per show
 - Supporting Member – \$250 Individual – \$35
 8 discounted tickets per show 2 discounted tickets per show
 - Patron – \$100 Senior/Student – \$25
 6 discounted tickets per show 1 discounted ticket per show
 (F/T student or senior 65+)

Please list your two favorite films: