

**Perspective:
VINCENT PRICE**

By Ronald Bonk

With a film career that spanned six decades, Vincent Price

played handsome romantic leads as well as wicked villains. Unlike most evildoers of the silver screen, Price was not physically menacing. Rather it was his character's keen intellect combined with a calm, well spoken, confident voice that brought an uneasy sense of menace to his film roles.

Vincent Price was born in St. Louis, Missouri on May 27, 1911 into a family of comfortable means. His father was president of the National Candy Company a supplier of sweets to five and dime stores nationwide.

After appearing in several Broadway dramas, including two with Orson Welles' Mercury Theatre,



Price ventured to Hollywood under contract to Universal. His first screen role was in a delightful comedy called *Service de Luxe* (1938) in which he played opposite Constance Bennett. He was then loaned out to Warner Brothers for a

1953 and the advent of 3-D brought Price one of his most memorable roles.

supporting part in *The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex* (1939) which was followed by a handful of other Universal programmers including *The Tower of London* (1939), *The Invisible Man Returns* (1940) and *The House of Seven Gables* (1940) in

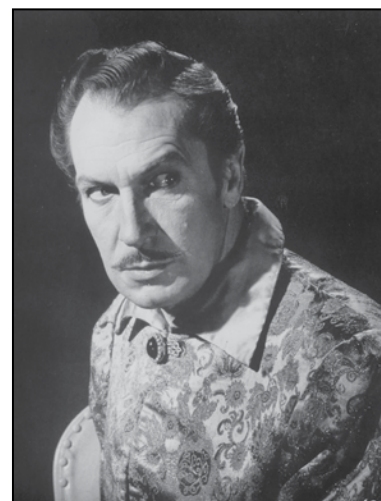
which he played the romantic lead opposite Margaret Lindsay. In 1940 Price was signed to a seven-year contract with 20th Century Fox that permitted him to make occasional stage performances. The following year he had one of his greatest Broadway successes playing the evil Mr. Manningham opposite Judith Evelyn in *Angel Street*.

In 1943 Fox gave Price his first great screen role: that of Jennifer Jones' skeptical opponent in *The Song of Bernadette*. This was followed by supporting parts in *The Eve of St. Mark* (1944) playing a Shakespeare quoting Southern soldier, *Wilson* (1944) playing Senator Gibbs McAdoo, *Laura* (1944) playing a suave admirer

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Vincent Price with Famous Monsters of Filmland publisher Jerry Warren



The Raven (1963)

trying to win the heart of Gene Tierney and *Leave Her to Heaven* (1945) playing a DA determined to put an end to Tierney's evil doings. His first starring role was in *Shock* (1946) as a psychiatrist trying to have Lynn Bari committed to an asylum after she witnesses him murder his wife. He finished out the decade with *Dragonwyck* (1946), *Moss Rose* (1947) and a memorable supporting part in Ronald Coleman's comedy *Champagne for Caesar* (1950).

1953 and the advent of 3-D brought Price one of his most memorable roles. In *House of Wax* he played a demented

sculptor who fills his museum with wax-coated dead bodies when his fire-damaged hands can no longer perform. The film was a



The Fly (1958)

After appearing in a few more straight dramas Price finished out the decade with three horror moneymakers, *The Fly* (1958), and two films for producer/director William Castle: *House on Haunted Hill* (1958) and *The Tingler* (1959). The success of these chillers prompted American International Pictures to star Price in their adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe's *The House of Usher* (1960), which was directed by low-budget filmmaker Roger Corman. The film was so successful that AIP continued to churn out similar low-budget Poe-based films with Price's salary being the most expensive item in their budgets.



Tales of Terror (1962)

huge box-office success and lead to another 3-D horror pic: *The Mad Magician* (1954). The public loved Price in these classy hair-raisers and they began his association with the horror genre that would last the rest of his life.



The Tingler (1959)

These films included *The Pit and the Pendulum* (1961) with John Kerr, *Tales of Terror* (1962) with Peter Lorre and Basil Rathbone and *The Raven* (1963) that cast Price and Lorre as magicians competing with power-hungry Boris Karloff. The Corman/Poe collaborations concluded in England with *The Masque of the Red Death* (1964) and *The Tomb of Ligeia* (1965).

Price continued to act in films and appear on television throughout the 70's and 80's. His last memorable film roles were in *Theatre of Blood* (1973) playing a hammy



Masque of Red Death (1964)

Shakespearean actor seeking revenge on theatrical critics who failed to give him favorable reviews, *The Whales of August* (1987) in which he played opposite Bette Davis and Lillian Gish and as Johnny Depp's master in Tim Burton's *Edward Scissorhands* (1990). In addition to acting, Price was an avid swimmer, hiker, art connoisseur, cook, author, lecturer, husband and father. He passed away at home in Los Angeles on October 25, 1993. ■

EMERGE-O SMERGO...

by Frank Gladstone

William Castle made over 60 films in his checkered career, but he is best known today for a series of "B" horror pictures he made from 1958 through 1961 that featured outrageous gimmicks designed to bring in audiences... which they almost always did.



Rather than tell you about the gimmick designed for *House On Haunted Hill* and ruin the effect that the Alex Theatre society has lovingly recreated at terrific expense, we thought it might be more opportune to review the other gimmicks Bill Castle came up with during his "horror cycle".

MACABRE (1958): Each ticket buyer got a \$1000 Lloyds of London life insurance policy to cover them if they "died from fright" during the movie.

HOUSE ON HAUNTED HILL (1959): "Emerge-O" will be resurrected for you during this special Halloween show.

THE TINGLER (1959): "Percept-O" was set up with specially wired seats in each theatre which sent a "tingle" to unsuspecting patrons during the climax of the picture. The Alex Film Society recreated "Percept-O" during our **TINGLER** screening a few years ago, to great success.

13 GHOSTS (1960): "Illusion-O" consisted of red and blue filters the audience could look through. On cue, one filter would reveal the ghostly figures, the other would make them disappear.

HOMICIDAL (1961): Had a "Fright Break", complete with an on-screen countdown, about half way through the picture. Audience members too frightened to continue watching could leave the theatre.



Price models the Emerge rig.

MR. SARDONICUS (1961): At the end of the movie, the audience was invited to use "thumbs-up" and "thumbs-down" cards to decide if the theatre would show a happy ending (main character lives!) or a sad one (he dies...). As far as we know, he always died. ■

Press Book

Press books have long been a standard in film advertising. Usually printed on glossy paper (for better image reproduction) and often tabloid sized, press books contained the pertinent information on the project, its film makers and stars coupled with enough sizzle to ensure local newspapers would print the "advertorial" along with paid ads funded by the exhibitor. This clip is about one quarter a full interior page. On the reverse were pre-made ads in various sizes (below). These pages are from the collection of Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.



The 35mm prints of the feature and cartoon are courtesy of Warner Bros (Linda Evans-Smith & Marilee Womack) and the short subject is courtesy of Columbia Repertory, (Michael Schlesinger). Research from IMDB and the Cine-Loa Archive (George Crittenden).

guests. The surprise ending, which to heighten the entertainment will

Three Stages Used For Film

Three of the largest sound stages at Allied Artists Studios were used in the filming of "House On Haunted Hill," spectacular ghost story, now playing at the *Alex*... theatre.

Under the direction of art director David Milton, the mammoth sound stages were crammed with more than 30 sets, including the interior of an 18-room house, for the thrilling film starring Vincent Price and co-starring Carol Ohmart, Alan Marshal and Richard Long.

One entire stage, Stage Three, was converted into a zombie-like cellar, with a sunken pool containing deadly acid, while other stages housed portions of streets, alleys, roof-tops and other areas pertinent to the exciting story line.

"House On Haunted Hill" was produced for Allied Artists by William Castle and Robb White, with Castle directing from a screenplay by White.

than at directing it. Check it up as good, escapist entertainment.



HOUSE ON HAUNTED HILL MAT NO. 3

Carolyn Craig and Richard Long start a nerve-wracking search through a haunted house in an attempt to solve the mystery of the strange occurrences in this scene from Allied Artists' "House On Haunted Hill" now at the *Alex*... theatre.

THE CAST

Frederick Loren	VINCENT PRICE
Annabelle Loren	CAROL OHMART
Lance Schroeder	RICHARD LONG
Dr. David Trent	ALAN MARSHAL
Nora Manning	CAROLYN CRAIG
Watson Pritchard	ELISHA COOK
Ruth Bridgers	JULIE MITCHUM
Mrs. Slykes	LEONA ANDERSON
Jonas	HOWARD HOFFMAN

THE STORY

(Not For Publication)

An eerie, ghost-infested, 100-year-old house is owned by Watson Pritchard (Elisha Cook), timid and who admits that seven persons, including his brother and sister, have been murdered in it. The house is rented for a night by Frederick Loren (Vincent Price) in order that his wife, Annabelle (Carol Ohmart), may give a "haunted house party." To recruit guests for his strange party, wealthy Loren offers \$10,000 to those who will spend the night there, the money to go to their heirs if they don't survive the experience. The guests, none of whom know each other or Loren, are Lance Schroeder (Richard Long), test pilot who needs the money; Ruth Bridgers (Julie Mitchum), newspaperwoman out for a good story; Pritchard; Dr. David Trent (Alan Marshal), a psychiatrist studying hysteria and thus interested in ghosts; Nora Manning (Carolyn Craig), a pretty young girl who needs the money, and Annabelle. Strange and horrible things start happening at the party. Nora is nearly killed when a huge chandelier almost falls on her. She is saved by Lance, and a romance between them develops. Annabelle and Frederick bicker. She doesn't want to attend the party. They quarrel violently. Annabelle won't give him the divorce he seeks. He accuses her of having tried to poison him. The guests explore the house by candlelight. Blood that won't wash off falls on Ruth's hand. They visit the frightening wine cellar where a huge vat is filled with acid in which, if a body is thrown, only the bones come up. Tension mounts as Loren demonstrates by dropping a rat in the vat. Nora becomes separated from the others and sees her first ghost, a Mrs. Slykes (Leona Anderson), a frightening apparition. Nora nearly faints as Mrs. Slykes floats past her. She screams for Lance but when found, he is unconscious, bleeding from the head. Annabelle confides in Lance that her husband intends to kill her; that two previous wives died and two disappeared. In her room, Nora discovers a tiny woman's head in her overnight case. She is grabbed by the bony fingers of another ghost, Jonas (Howard Hoffman). When she screams her fears to Loren, he calmly explains that Mrs. Slykes and Jonas are merely caretakers, and are about to leave for the night. Loren now supplies each guest with a revolver, telling them to go to their rooms. There is a scream and Trent rushes to Annabelle's room to find her hanging. He lowers her to the bed and Loren arrives to announce: "My wife tried to kill herself." Nora confides in Lance that Loren also tried to kill her. Trent later accuses Loren of trying to kill Annabelle. Now in the cellar, Loren accuses Nora who shoots at him. Trent tries to drag Loren into the acid vat. Annabelle enters the cellar and is trapped there. She calls: "DAVID" (Trent). Then occurs a blood-tingling climax, with Annabelle, Trent, and Loren facing each other at the edge of the acid vat. What occurs must remain a secret, in one of the most spine-tingling, horrifying climaxes ever devised for a ghost story.

Vincent Price Talented Person

Vincent Price, star of Allied Artists' "House On Haunted Hill," now playing at the *Alex*... theatre, is a man of many and varied talents.

Not only is he a film star of the first magnitude, but he is generally considered one of this nation's few top authorities on art and painting. His advice is constantly sought by big art galleries and salons, the directors of which are guided implicitly by his decisions.

In addition, Price is in constant demand from television and theatrical producers, who seek his services both as a comedian and for straight, dramatic roles.

"I'm not happy except when I'm acting or lecturing on art and painting," Price says. "I find there aren't nearly enough hours in the day to do all the things I like to do."

"Of course acting is my first love, but when there's a lull in that field, I'm off on a tour of the country lecturing on art and the appreciation of great books. I'm an omnivorous reader, and have done my share of writing. A book on early Flemish art will soon be published."

"House On Haunted Hill," a William Castle-Robb White production for Allied Artists, also stars Carol Ohmart, Alan Marshal and Richard Long. Castle directed.

LECTURES

When he is not busy starring in films, television and on the stage, Vincent Price, starring in Allied Artists' "House On Haunted Hill," currently on the screen at the *Alex*... theatre, tours the country lecturing on the appreciation of art. He is one of this nation's few top experts on art and painting.

MODEL

Carol Ohmart, who stars with Vincent Price in Allied Artists' "House On Haunted Hill," now at the *Alex*... theatre, was a top model before turning to acting. She was a favorite subject of famed illustrator Russell Patterson.

CREDITS

A William Castle-Robb White Production. Produced and Directed by William Castle; Associate Producer, Robb White; Written by Robb White; Photographed by Carl E. Guthrie, A.S.C.; Film Editor, Roy Livingston; Recorded by Ralph Butler; Sound Editor, Charles Schelling; Production Manager, Edward Morey, Jr.; Art Director, David Milton; Assistant Director, Jack R. Berne; Theme: "House On Haunted Hill" by Richard Kayne and Richard Loring; Music Composed and Conducted by Von Dexter; Music Editor, Jerry Irvin; Set Decorator, Morris Hoffman; Set Continuity by Virginia Mazzuca; Construction Supervisor, James West; Special Effects, Herman Townsley; Property, Ted Mossman; Men's Wardrobe by Roger I. Weinberg; Ladies' Wardrobe by Norah Sharpe; Hair Stylist, Gale McGarry; Makeup by Jack Dusick.

House Guests

by Linda Harris

House on Haunted Hill is a scream... and I'm not talking about the audience, but the colorful cast of characters that director William Castle choose to support star Vincent Price.



Perhaps best known to film fans is **Elisha Cook, Jr.** – (Watson Pritchard) the owner of the eerie, ghost-invested house.

In a career spanning almost 60 years, Elisha Cook, Jr. worked in vaudeville, stock companies, Broadway, films and television.

“Funny, isn’t it, I thought I’d be playing

romantic juveniles when I went into the movies, and ended up doing pimp’s, informers, rats and heels,” Cook once said in an interview.

Although he once declared that he had appeared in “more bombs than I care to remember”, Cook was seen in a number of cinematic classics including *Sergeant York* (1941), *Shane* (1953), and *Rosemary’s Baby* (1968), but he’ll always be remembered for his role as Wilmer in *The Maltese Falcon* (1941).

He worked up until the early 90’s appearing in numerous television shows such as “The Untouchables”, “The Fugitive”, “Wagon Train” and “Magnum P.I.” until he suffered a stroke that rendered him unable to speak.



He died at age 91– the last surviving cast member of *The Maltese Falcon*.

Carol Ohmart
(Annabelle Loren)
– Vincent Price’s wife



Born July 3, 1927 in Salt Lake City, Utah. At age 19 won the “Miss Utah” title (then a brunette), coming up fourth runner-up when she segued into the “Miss America” contest. The attention she received led to a modeling, commercial and magazine cover career.

Dying her hair blonde, she became one of a “bevy of sexy blondes in Hollywood shuffled about in 50’s films, thrust into the limelight by ambitious movie studios as possible contenders to Marilyn Monroe’s uncooperative pedestal.”

In 1949, she did commercials for early TV programs, appearing on the NBC program “Versatile Varieties” doing floor wax commercials alongside Anne Francis and Eva Marie Saint.

Paramount signed her in 1955, billing her, of course, as the “next Marilyn”. She came across on screen as hard-bitten and unsympathetic instead of as an innocent sex goddess and her first two movies *The Scarlet Hour* (1956) and *The Wild Party* (1956) unfortunately tanked at the box office.

Nevertheless, she’ll always have television. She logged many hours as a guest-star on popular television shows, including “Perry Mason”, “Route 66”, “Get Smart” and “Mannix” among others.

In the late 1960’s, Ohmart deserted her acting career, briefly picking it up again in the early 1970’s on television and in her final film, *The Spectre of Edgar Allen Poe* (1974; with Robert Walker Jr. and Cesar Romero). Afterward, Ohmart abandoned acting for good in favor of studying metaphysics.

Carol Ohmart is the only cast member still alive.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

HOUSE GUESTS – CONT'D FROM PAGE 5



Richard Long, Price & Carolyn Craig

Richard Long (Lance Schroeder) a test pilot who needs money

Born on December 17, 1927 in Chicago, he is fondly remembered for his role of Professor Harold Everett on the popular 1970's TV comedy "Nanny and the Professor." and as Barbara Stanwyck's son on "The Big Valley".

At the beginning of his career, his good looks served him well and got him a contract at Universal Pictures. Making his screen debut as Claudette Colbert's son in *Tomorrow Is Forever* (1946),

He appeared in numerous films and classic television series, became a



Vincent Price & Carol Ohmart

leading player in all of Warner Bros. TV shows of the 1950's. He even played the same character (Rex Randolph) on "Bourbon Street Beat", "Hawaiian Eye" and "77 Sunset Strip". He was married to actress Suzan Ball (Lucille Ball's second cousin, she died of cancer only a year after their marriage). Later, he wed actress Mara Corday.

Richard Long died of a heart attack at age 47.

Alan Marshal (Dr. David Trent) a psychiatrist studying hysteria

Born January 29, 1909, described as a bland, handsome, mustached Australian-born actor in the George Brent tradition, Marshal supported many femme stars in late 30's romantic drama, including Greta Garbo and Irene Dunne.

Marshal's films include, *The White Cliffs Of Dover* (1944), *The Howards Of Virginia* (1940), *Irene* (1940), *The Adventures Of Sherlock Holmes* (1939), *The Hunchback Of Notre Dame* (1939) (as the dashing Capt. Phoebus) and *The Garden Of Allah* (1936). He also appeared on television in, "Sugarfoot", "Wagon Train", "Rawhide", "M Squad", "Buckskin" and "Perry Mason".

In the early 60's, he suffered from a chronic nervous condition that ended his film career, forcing him to return to the theater.

Ironically, he died of a heart attack on July 13, 1961, in New York, while appearing on stage in the play "Sextet" with Mae West.



Carolyn Craig

Carolyn Craig (Nora Manning) a pretty, young girl who needs the money too because she works as a secretary in one of Price's companies

Born October 24, 1934 on Long Island, Craig got her start in show business at the age of nineteen by appearing in a series of photographs praising the benefits of being a housewife.

She's probably best remembered for her role in *House On Haunted Hill* and as Cynthia Allison on "General Hospital" in 1963. She also made guest appearances on television in, "Laramie", "Checkmate", "Hawaiian Eye", "77 Sunset Strip", and "The Rifleman."

Her death at the age of 36 in Culver City was attributed to a gunshot wound.

Julie Mitchum (Ruth Bridges) newspaperwoman out for a good story

Born July 23, 1914 in Connecticut, and yes – she is the sister of Robert Mitchum. She made a handful of movies in the 50's.

Julie Mitchum died in 2003 of Alzheimer's disease. ■

The House

ENNIS BROWN HOUSE
ENNISHOUSE.ORG



The house on haunted hill, which looks like a huge Mayan temple, is actually a real house and it's really in Los Angeles. The Ennis Brown house perches on a precarious slope of land in the Los Feliz district.

Designed in 1924 by Frank Lloyd Wright, the Ennis Brown house is featured in over 20 movies including *The Black Cat* (1934), *Day of the Locust* (1975), *Blade Runner* (1982) and *Black Rain* (1989).

After the Northridge earthquake and the torrential rains in the winter of 2004, the house is now washing down the haunted hill on which it perches. Two aging Rottweilers are now it's only residents – guarding the place from vandals.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, the LA Conservancy, The Ennis House Foundation and the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy are working together to preserve this Hollywood landmark. ■

PLEASE join AFS!
SEE PAGE 8
FOR INFORMATION.

Short Subjects

A Witch's Tangled Hare If A Body Meets A Body

A WITCH'S TANGLED HARE

Warner Bros Cartoon, Technicolor – 1959 – 7 minutes

Print courtesy of Warner Bros



Produced by.....David H. Depatie
Directed by.....Abe Levitow
Story by.....Michael Maltese
Animation.....Richard Thompson, Ken Harris
Ben Washam, Keith Darling
Layouts.....Owen Fitzgerald
Backgrounds.....Bob Singer
Editor.....Treg Brown
Voices.....Mel Blanc, June Foray
Music.....Milt Franklyn
Production Mgr.....William Orcutt

Bugs Bunny gets tangled up with a witch in days of old.

IF A BODY MEETS A BODY

Columbia/Three Stooges 1945 18 minutes

Print courtesy of Columbia Repertory

Cast

Curly Howard, Larry Fine, Moe Howard
Ted Lorch.....Jerkington
Fred Kelsey.....Detective Clancy
Joe Palma.....Housekeeper*
Victor Travers.....Link relative*
Al Thompson.....Bob O. Link*
John Tyrrell.....Deceased Lawyer*
*uncredited



Produced Et
Directed by.....Jules White
Story by.....Gil Pratt
Screenplay by.....Jack White
Cinematographer....Benjamin Kline
Art Direction by.....Charles Clague
Edited by.....Charles Hockberg

Upon hearing that Curly is the heir to a \$3 million estate, the Stooges leave immediately for the reading of the will at a spooky old mansion. The Stooges witness many strange and weird happenings before finding out what Curly's uncle has bequeathed him in the surprise ending.

Society News

Society elects Board and Officers

On July 29 at the Society's annual meeting, members in attendance re-elected Ronald Bonk, Jim Elyea, Frank Gladstone and Daryl Maxwell to 3 year terms. Remaining Board members are Randy Carter, George Crittenden, Pamela Ellis, Brian Ellis, Pam Elyea and Andrea Humberger. The members also voted to fill an open seat, with our newest Board member Beth Werling.

The Board then met to elect officers for the year and chose Randy Carter for President, Ron Bonk as V.P., Brian Ellis as Treasurer and Pamela Ellis as Secretary.

We've updated our web site to include more information and past issues of the *Voice of the Theatre*. Check it out at www.AlexFilmSociety.org and sign up for our email list.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 \$

(discount admissions good for every screening)

☐ Patron \$100
(Eight discount passes)

☐ Family/dual \$40
(Four discount passes)

☐ Individual \$25
(Two discount passes)

☐ Senior/Student \$15
(One pass) Senior over 60,
F/T student graduation date:

Please list your two favorite films:

www.AlexFilmSociety.org

Tickets: 818.243.2539

Saturday, November 25 at 2 and 8 pm only

"Saving Private Curly... Stooges in Arms"

THREE STOOGES™ BIG SCREEN EVENT!

We celebrate the 9th year of our popular "Stooge-fest," a collection of five classic short subjects cherry picked from the Columbia Pictures' vaults by our blue ribbon panel of Stoooge-o-philes. This year, each of the shorts has a military or wartime theme.

Saturday, February 10, 2007 at 2 and 8 pm

Tracey, Hepburn and a Computer

DESK SET

Sparks and words fly when love and automation collide in 20th Century Fox's classic office-romantic comedy. When efficiency expert Richard Sumner, portrayed by Spencer Tracey, is hired to install an electronic brain in the Reference Dept. headed by walking encyclopedia Barbara "Bunny" Watson, portrayed by Katherine Hepburn, the day to day routine is anything but ordinary. Joan Blondell, Gig Young, and Dina Merrill are the supporting cast for this edge of the computer age office romp that is presented in Cinemascope with color by De Luxe. Come with the one you love on February 10th for a Valentine's Day treat!

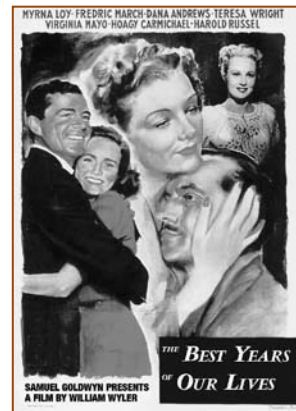


Saturday, April 28, 2007 at 2 and 8 pm

Winner of 7 Oscars including Best Picture!

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES

Three American servicemen return home after World War 2, to find their lives irrevocably changed by their military experience. Together, the three must find a way to come to terms with their experiences and pick up the pieces, lest wartime turn out to be "the best years of their lives". Directed by William Wyler, starring Myrna Loy, Fredric March and Dana Andrews, it swept the Academy Awards. RKO (1946).



VOICE of the THEATRE

Published by and for members of the Alex Film Society

P. O. Box 4807 • Glendale, CA 91222 • 818.754.8250

ClassicFilms@AlexFilmSociety.org

\$3 (mailed free with membership)

editor	randy carter
design/layout	brian ellis
distribution	andrea humberger
printer	alco printing, glendale

©2006 AFS, all rights reserved