

REEL SOLUTIONS



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The Roots of Comedy in Silent American Cinema

Saturday 18 January, 10.30am - 4.30pm

Mechanics Institute Library, Bradford



January can be a dismal time for many, so we aim to start the year with some 'serious fun'!

This event will look at the roots of film comedy in a specific period of American cinema, from the early 1910s to the start of the 1930s.

The main focus will be on the producers Mack Sennett, who set up the Keystone Studios in 1912, and Hal Roach, who built his studio in 1919. From these early studios in Los Angeles came the films of comic artists such as Roscoe Arbuckle, Mabel Normand, Harold Lloyd, Buster Keaton and Laurel and Hardy – initially in the form of one and two reelers before graduating to feature films in the 1920s.

During the event we will look at a variety of shorter films and a full-length feature by Buster Keaton to understand the progression from music hall/vaudeville sketches, through slapstick extravaganzas to more character-driven narratives.

Tea and coffee will be available, for a small fee, and you are welcome to bring your own lunch.

Tickets are available online and on the door but due to limited places, please let us know if you are planning to buy your ticket on the day.



Mabel's new Hero Dir. Mack Sennett 1913 10 mins
Mabel Normand | Roscoe 'Fatty' Arbuckle | Edgar Kennedy

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