AFI SILVER CLASSIC FILM WEEKEND

The screenings in this year's AFI Silver Classic Film Weekend lineup will be introduced by the following guests and film scholars.



David Pierce is an archivist and historian. Retired from the Library of Congress, he is now the head of special projects for Film Preservation Society. David is the author of "The Survival of American Silent Feature Films: 1912–1929," published for the National Film Preservation Board in 2013, and the co-author (with James Layton) of "The Dawn of Technicolor" (2015) and "King of Jazz: Paul Whiteman's Technicolor Revue" (2016). He founded the Media History Digital Library, which provides free access to millions of pages of classic film magazines, for search, viewing and download.



Craig Barron's career began at Industrial Light & Magic in 1979, working on THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK, RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK and E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL. In 1988, he co-founded Matte World Digital, contributing visual effects to over 100 films, including ZODIAC, ALICE IN WONDERLAND (2010) and HUGO. He is now Executive Creative Director at Magnopus, where he most recently helped develop THE WIZARD OF OZ at Sphere, adapting the 1939 classic into an AI-assisted immersive experience for Las Vegas' Sphere venue. His honors include an Academy Award® for THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON, an Oscar® nomination for BATMAN RETURNS, and an Emmy® for BY DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT. He is also a film historian, author, and lecturer, bringing a perspective spanning decades of visual effects — from hand-painted mattes to AI-assisted worldbuilding.

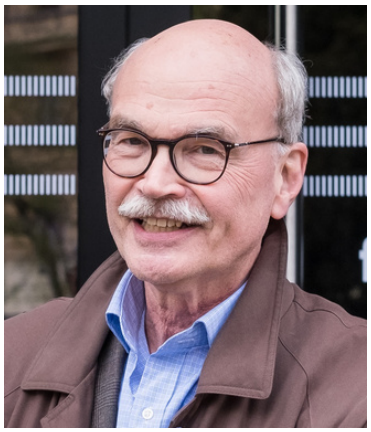


Jerry Beck is a writer, animation producer, college professor and author of more than 15 books on animation history. He currently teaches animation history at CalArts, UCLA and USC. A former studio executive with Nickelodeon and Disney, Beck is currently a consulting curator and writer for MeTV Toons, and a cartoon consultant to the Warner Archive Collection, as well as Turner Classic Movies. He also publishes and edits two blogs, Animation Scoop and Cartoon Research.



Scott Eyman is the author/co-author of eighteen books, including the bestseller "John Wayne: The Life and Legend" and both "Pieces of My Heart" and "You Must Remember This" with actor Robert Wagner. Eyman, formerly the literary critic at The Palm Beach Post, also writes book reviews for The Wall Street Journal, and has written for The New York Times, The Washington Post and the Chicago Tribune. He and his wife, Lynn, live in West Palm Beach.

AFI SILVER CLASSIC FILM WEEKEND



Richard Koszarski is a writer, researcher, curator and historian specializing in the history of American cinema. His latest book is "'Keep 'Em in the East:' Kazan, Kubrick, and the Postwar New York Film Renaissance."



Farran Smith Nehme has written about film and film history for The Criterion Collection, Sight and Sound, The Wall Street Journal and elsewhere, as well as for her Substack newsletter, Self-Styled Siren.



Sheila O' Malley has been a regular film critic for RogerEbert.com since 2013. She is the author of "The Art and Making of Guillermo del Toro's Frankenstein," published by Insight Editions in October 2025. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, The LA Times, Sight and Sound, Film Comment and other outlets. She has written numerous booklet essays and video essays for Criterion Collection releases. Sheila is a member of both the New York Film Critics' Circle and the National Society of Film Critics.



David Stenn's writing-producing credits for television span from HILL STREET BLUES to BOARDWALK EMPIRE and also include 21 JUMP STREET; BEVERLY HILLS, 90210; and THE L WORD. Stenn's first biography, "Clara Bow: Runnin' Wild," became a national bestseller. It was followed by "Bombshell: The Life and Death of Jean Harlow," cited by the New York Times as one of 1993's Notable Books. "It Happened One Night...at MGM," Stenn's discovery for Vanity Fair of Hollywood's best-suppressed scandal, brought vindication to rape survivor Patricia Douglas after 66 years in hiding. Stenn adapted this story into the documentary film GIRL 27. Stenn is a passionate supporter of film preservation. He serves on the Film Committee of the Museum of Modern Art in New York and Board of Directors at the UCLA Film & Television Archive in Los Angeles.



Margaret Talbot is a staff writer at The New Yorker and the author of "The Entertainer: Movies, Magic, and My Father's Twentieth Century" (Riverhead, 2012). With her brother David Talbot, she co-authored "By the Light of Burning Dreams: The Triumphs and Tragedies of the Second American Revolution" (HarperCollins, 2021). She has also written for The New Republic, where she was formerly executive editor, and The New York Times Magazine, among other places. She was a founding editor of Lingua Franca: The Review of Academic Life.