# CHAPLIN SHORTS

20 NEWLY-RESTORED FILMS SHOWCASING THE EVOLUTION OF "THE LITTLE TRAMP" 1914-1917

NOW AVAILABLE ON DCP

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### THE MAKING OF A LEGEND

12 Chaplin Mutual films and 8 Keystones are available on DCP from Flicker Alley. Chaplin's maturation as an artist is seen in these films, many of which are considered his best works. In the Keystone comedies, we see the birth of the Tramp. In the Mutuals, we see Chaplin further explor and develop his celebrated Little Tramp character that would soon join Falstaff and Don Quixote in the pantheon of immortal comic characters.

His inventiveness shines as he stretches himself to take on new characters. In addition to playing his 'Little Tramp' character, he portrays a fireman, a police officer, a prisoner, and more. These shorts make an excellent program on their own or as a companion piece to the screening of a full-length film.





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# HIGHLY-ACCLAIMED RELEASES

Named one of "The Best DVDs and Blu-rays of 2014."

- Michael Atkinson, BFI's Sight & Sound magazine

"The transfers of these films are among the most stunningly clear I've seen of films from this era."

> - Jef Burnham, *Film Monthly*

"These new digital reissues of Chaplin's Mutual films aren't just labors of love. They are some kind of miracle."

> - Michael Covino, EatDrinkFilms

"Watching **Chaplin's Mutual Comedies** is a revelation because one can witness a master filmmaker coming of age."

- Susan King, Los Angeles Times

"Gorgeous presentations of the most breathtakingly stunt-filled and funny pictures from what some consider Charlie Chaplin's most free-wheelingly creative period; from *The Immigrant* to *The Rink* and beyond, these movies are legendary."

> - Glenn Kenny, RogerEbert.com



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# 8 PIONEERING KEYSTONES

Chaplin's Keystone **Comedies** include: Kid Auto Races in Venice The Rounders Dough and Dynamite Mabel's Married Life The Masquerader The New Janitor His Music Career His Prehistoric Past





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# 12 ICONIC MUTUALS

Chaplin's **Mutual Comedies** includes: The Floorwalker The Fireman The Vagabond One A.M. The Count The Pawnshop Behind the Screen The Rink Easy Street The Cure The Immigrant The Adventurer



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### KID AUTO RACES IN VENICE (1914)

**KID AUTO RACES IN VENICE** – 6 min. The first appearance of Chaplin's 'Little Tramp' character. Chaplin plays a spectator at a 'babycart race' in Venice, Los Angeles. The spectator keeps getting in the way of the camera and interferes with the race, causing great frustration to the public and participants.



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### THE ROUNDERS (1914)

**THE ROUNDERS** – 13 min. Chaplin and Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle play two drunken revelers fight with their wives then go out on the town to get even drunker. When their wives catch up to them at the bar, the men make their escape and flee in a rowboat. Tired, the pair falls asleep as the boat sinks into the water.



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### DOUGH AND DYNAMITE (1914)

#### **DOUGH AND DYNAMITE** – 28

min. Chaplin and Chester Conklin work as waiters at a restaurant where the cooks go on strike. When the two are forced to work as bakers, the striking cooks put dynamite in the dough, with explosive results.



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### MABEL'S MARRIED LIFE (1914)

**MABEL'S MARRIED LIFE** – 14 min. At the park, a man put the moves on the the 'Tramp's wife, Mabel. The 'Tramp' tracks down the intruding man's wife, and a fight breaks out among the two couples. On the way home, Mabel buys a man-shaped punching bag while the 'Tramp' goes to a bar. When he returns home, he drunkenly mistakes the punching bag for a male rival and tries to challenge the punching bag to a fistfight. Co-written and starring Mabel Normand.



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# THE MASQUERADER (1914)

**THE MASQUERADER** – 12 min. Chaplin plays an actor who bungles several scenes and is kicked out. He returns convincingly dressed as a lady and charms the director, but never makes it into the film. Also starring Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle.



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### THE NEW JANITOR (1914)

THE NEW JANITOR - 12 min. The hero, a janitor played by Chaplin, is fired from work for accidentally knocking his bucket of water out the window and onto his boss the chief banker. Meanwhile, one of the junior managers (Dillon) is being threatened with exposure by his bookie for gambling debts unpaid. Thus the manager decides to steal from the company. He is caught in the act of raiding the vault by the bank secretary who rings the downstairs for help. Chaplin comes to the rescue only to be misjudged by the Chief Banker as the thief. The Secretary fingers the manager and Chaplin receives a just reward and a handshake for foiling the robbery. This film served as a precursor to a key Essanay Studios short, The Bank.



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### HIS MUSICAL CAREER (1914)

#### HIS MUSICAL CAREER -

13 min. Chaplin and his partner Mike work at a piano store, whose manager orders them to deliver a piano to Mr. Rich at 666 Prospect Street and repossess one from Mr. Poor at 999 Prospect Street. Hilarity ensues when they do exactly the opposite after mixing up the addresses of their customers.



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### HIS PREHISTORIC PAST (1915)

**HIS PREHISTORIC PAST** – 22 min. Sets Chaplin in a stone-age kingdom trying to usurp the crown of King Low-Brow to win the affections of the king's favorite wife. The film was Chaplin's last at Keystone Studios.



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### THE FLOORWALKER (1916)

28 min. The 'Tramp' is a customer who creates chaos in a department store and becomes inadvertently entangled in the nefarious scheme of the store manager, played by Eric Campbell, and the store's floorwalker, played by Lloyd Bacon, to embezzle money from the establishment. Chaplin's first Mutual Film Corporation film.



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### THE FIREMAN (1916)

25 min. A young girl's father arranges with the local fire chief to have his house burn down so he could collect on the insurance money. However, a real fire breaks out elsewhere in the town.



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### THE VAGABOND (1916)

25 min. The 'Tramp' wanders off into the vicinity of a gypsy caravan. He encounters the beautiful, though bedraggled, Edna (Purviance) and entertains her with his violin. She has been abducted and abused by the gypsies, chief among them Eric Campbell, who whips her mercilessly. Charlie comes to her rescue before riding off with her in a commandeered cart.



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### ONE A.M. (1916)

**ONE A.M.** – 18 min. Chaplin plays a rich young man who has trouble navigating his way to bed after returning home from a night on the town. Inside the house, the furniture and other inanimate objects become almost insurmountable obstacles for the drunk. The first film Chaplin starred in alone, except for a brief scene of Albert Austin playing a cab driver.



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### THE COUNT (1916)

**THE COUNT** – 24 min. The tailor's handyman (Chaplin) burns a count's trousers while ironing them and is fired. His superior discovers a note explaining the count can't attend a party, and dresses up like one to take his place. Chaplin also goes to the party. There, he and the tailor fight over the fair maiden, Miss Moneybags (Edna Purviance). The real Count finally arrives, learns of the imposters and calls the police. Chaplin makes a mad dash through the party and scampers away to safety.



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### THE PAWNSHOP (1916)

**THE PAWNSHOP** – 25 min. Chaplin plays an assistant in a pawnshop run by Henry Bergman. He engages in a slapstick battles with his fellow pawnshop assistant, deals with eccentric customers, and flirts with the pawnbroker's daughter, played by Edna Purviance. One customer, posing as a jewelry buyer, pulls a gun and tries to rob the place. Chaplin disarms him.



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### BEHIND THE SCREEN (1916)

**BEHIND THE SCREEN** – 24 min. The film takes place in a movie studio. A stagehand named David (Chaplin) has a supervisor, Goliath (Eric Campbell). Much of the film is slapstick comedy involving Chaplin manhandling large props, but other plotlines include a strike by the stagehands, and Edna Purviance, who is unable to become an actress, dressing as a man and becoming a stagehand.



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### THE RINK (1916)

**THE RINK** – 24 min. After amusements working in a restaurant, Charlie uses his lunch break to go roller skating. Also starring Edna Purviance, Eric Campbell, Henry Bergman, and Albert Austin.



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### EASY STREET (1917)

EASY STREET – 26 min. In a slum called "Easy Street", the police are failing to maintain law and order and so the Little Tramp steps forward (rather reluctantly) to rid the street of bullies, help the poor, save women from madmen.



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### THE CURE (1917)

**THE CURE** – 25 min. Chaplin plays an alcoholic who checks into a health spa to dry out, but brings along a big suitcase full of alcohol. The hotel employees imbibe his liquor and their raucous antics anger the hotel owner. Meanwhile, a young woman inspires Chaplin to get sober, but little does he know the spa's waters have been contaminated by his alcohol.



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### THE IMMIGRANT (1917)

**THE IMMIGRANT** – 24 min. The 'Tramp' as an immigrant coming to the United States who is accused of theft on the voyage across the Atlantic Ocean and befriends a young woman along the way. Also starring Edna Purviance and Eric Campbell.



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### THE ADVENTURER (1917)

**THE ADVENTURER** – 25 min. Chaplin plays an escaped convict on the run from prison guards. He falls into favor with a wealthy family after he saves a young lady (Edna Purviance) from drowning, but her suitor (Eric Campbell) does everything he can to have Chaplin apprehended by the officials. It is the last of the twelve films made under contract for the Mutual Film Corporation.



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# QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!



Contact Flicker Alley at <u>info@flickeralley.com</u> or (323) 851-1905.

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