



**Saving Film & Television for Future Generations**

*UCLA Film & Television Archive presents a screening of Stage Struck (1925) with musician-composer Andrew Earle Simpson, March 23, 2019 at the Billy Wilder Theater at the Hammer Museum in Westwood*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LOS ANGELES, CA (Mar. 19, 2019)** – UCLA Film & Television Archive presents a screening of the newly restored silent romantic comedy, *Stage Struck* (1925), starring Gloria Swanson and directed by Allan Dwan, featuring live accompaniment by musician-composer Andrew Earle Simon on March 23, 2019, at the Billy Wilder Theater at the Hammer Museum in Westwood.

This true classic is a comic romance about a small-town waitress (Gloria Swanson) pining for a hunky flapjack cook (Lawrence Gray) who only has eyes for the actresses in his pin-up photos. *Stage Struck* opens with an epic Technicolor spoof of Swanson's own extravagant screen image. The sequence shows off Swanson's gift for comedy (she started out with Mack Sennett), as she plays a waitress trying to catch her beau's eye, and culminating in a dizzy boxing match on a riverboat theater stage. *Stage Struck* was the sixth collaboration between director Allan Dwan (*Robin Hood*, *A Perfect Crime*) and Swanson and proved one of their most successful. The film has been restored by George Eastman Museum.

*Archive Talks* is an ongoing series that pairs leading historians and scholars with screenings of films that highlight their writing and research. Invited scholars introduce audiences to new insights, interpretations and contexts for the films screened.

Andrew Earle Simpson, this week's invited scholar, is an acclaimed composer, pianist, organist and conductor who seek organic connections between music and other disciplines. One of America's foremost silent film musicians, Simpson is a Resident Film Accompanist for the National Gallery of Art and a regularly featured accompanist for the Library of Congress' Mt. Pony Theater. He has performed original film scores at the Giornate del Cinema Muto in Pordenone, Italy, the Cineteca Nazionale's Cinema Trevi in Rome, Sala Cecelia Meireles in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Lincoln Center in New York and other venues. Simpson is Professor of Music at the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He will give a presentation on his creative process for composing scores for silent films, before performing his original score for Allan Dwan's *Stage Struck*.

**Doors open at 7 p.m., program starts at 7:30p.m. Tickets are \$10 each.**

## **About UCLA Film & Television Archive**

The mission of the UCLA Film & Television Archive is to save film and television for future generations.

The Archive is internationally renowned for rescuing, preserving and showcasing moving image media and is dedicated to ensuring that the visual achievements of our time are available for information, education and enjoyment. The sixth-largest moving image repository in the world, and the second largest in the U.S., behind only the Library of Congress, the Archive's more than 450,000 holdings are stored in a state-of-the-art facility that meets and exceeds all preservation standards, from nitrate film to digital.

A unit of UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television, the Archive's Research and Study Center provides free access to its holdings to researchers, writers and educators. Many of the Archive's projects are screened at prestigious film events around the globe, as well as locally at UCLA's Billy Wilder Theater.

**For more information, please contact** Marisa Soto at (310) 206-8588 or [msoto@cinema.ucla.edu](mailto:msoto@cinema.ucla.edu)