

Centre for Continuing Education

The cinema art of Charles Chaplin

Philip Dutton

A 6 week excursion totalling 18 hours through the stages of Chaplin's development as a cinema actor, director and producer from 1914 to 1939. Each week will comprise Chaplin movies from the earliest silents to his first talking and include out takes and documentaries rarely seen as well as biographical summaries, discussion and supper.

NB You may wish to provide note-taking materials and make a contribution of \$5 per week towards supper.

At the conclusion of the course you should be able to:

- Understand how a film genre is developed from its earliest beginnings
- Appreciate the intricacies of an artistic approach to film direction
- Gain a knowledge of the development of comic film idiom
- Appreciate the life and work of an early, original and great cinema artist
- Enjoy movies more generally from an examination of an important foundation layer.

Please see more detailed outline enclosed.

Philip has been a teacher of drama, media, history and humanities since 1973 as well as Head of Burgmann College, ANU since 1986. He has been especially passionate about the life and work of Chaplin since he was a 10 year old and will visit the Chaplin Studios in Hollywood in July 2009 for the third time. Why not read Philip's short piece on Chaplin by visiting: <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/talks/perspective/stories/s961605/htm>

DATES/TIMES: 7-10pm on 6 Wednesdays from 12 August

FEE: \$295

COURSE LOCATION: The venue for this course can be found on your tax invoice/receipt under "Course Information". Please allow enough time to locate the venue on the first evening.

"The views expressed in this course/activity are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University"

The Australian National University

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- Week One:** **The Keystone and Essanay Years 1914- 15**
Introduction – Chaplin's early life – first film appearances including scenes from *Making a Living*, *Kid Auto Races*, *A Night in the Show* and *One AM* plus documentary footage of the early years. Discussion and Supper.
- Week Two:** **The Mutual and First National Years 1916 -1921**
World fame and wealth and independence – scenes from *Easy Street*, *The Immigrants*, *Shoulder Arms* and *The Kid* plus documentary footage examining his development as a storyteller and director. Discussion and Supper.
- Week Three:** **United Artists 1922 – 1925**
The Chaplin Studios and the birth of United Artists – scenes from *A Woman of Paris* and *The Gold Rush* – his first and most loved masterpiece at length. Discussion and Supper.
- Week Four:** **1929 – 1931 Challenging the Talkies**
The marriage break up and his breakdown between 1925 and 1929 – scenes from *The Circus and City Lights* plus documentary footage his strive for artistic perfection in one scene. Discussion and Supper.
- Week Five:** **1936 – Modern Times**
Well all about are talking – a triumph for silent films – scenes from Hollywood's last silent movie *Modern Times*, ("the funniest movie ever made" Phillip Adams), and associated documentary footage.
- Week Six:** **1939 – The Great Dictator**
The 'little fellow' speaks – a final week with full viewing and discussion of *The Tramp and the Dictator* and *The Great Dictator*. Discussion and Special Supper.

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