

Ancient Greece in Silent Cinema

Friday, 17 October, 18.00-19.30
Auditorium Theo Angelopoulos, French Institute
31 Sina Street, Athens

Introduction: Pantelis Michelakis
Original composition (piano and synthesizer): Minas I. Alexiadis



Scattered across Europe and North America, in the vaults of film archives there survives a large number of entertaining, provoking, and often quite beautiful silent films set in ancient Greece. Few of these films are known today, and even fewer have received the critical attention they deserve. The films in question, ranging from historical and mythological epics to adaptations of ancient drama, burlesques, cartoons and documentaries, suggest a fascination with the ancient world that competes in intensity and breadth with that of Hollywood's classical era. 'Ancient Greece in Silent Cinema' will consist of the screening of a selection of these rarely seen early films. The introduction of the screening will address the question of how ancient Greece contributed to the development of early cinema and how early cinema affected modern understandings of antiquity. The experience of viewing will be substantially enriched by the performance of an original musical composition by the musicologist and composer Minas Alexiadis. For more information, please contact Pantelis Michelakis, University of Bristol, P.Michelakis@bris.ac.uk

This screening is part of a three-day, international colloquium entitled 'Hellenomania' to take place at the nearby French School at Athens, 16-18 October 2014. We are extremely grateful to the French Institute at Athens, the French School at Athens, the British School at Athens and the Institute of Greece, Rome and the Classical Tradition, University of Bristol for their support.