

Celebrate the film era before 'talkies'

Silent film festival is Oct. 22-24

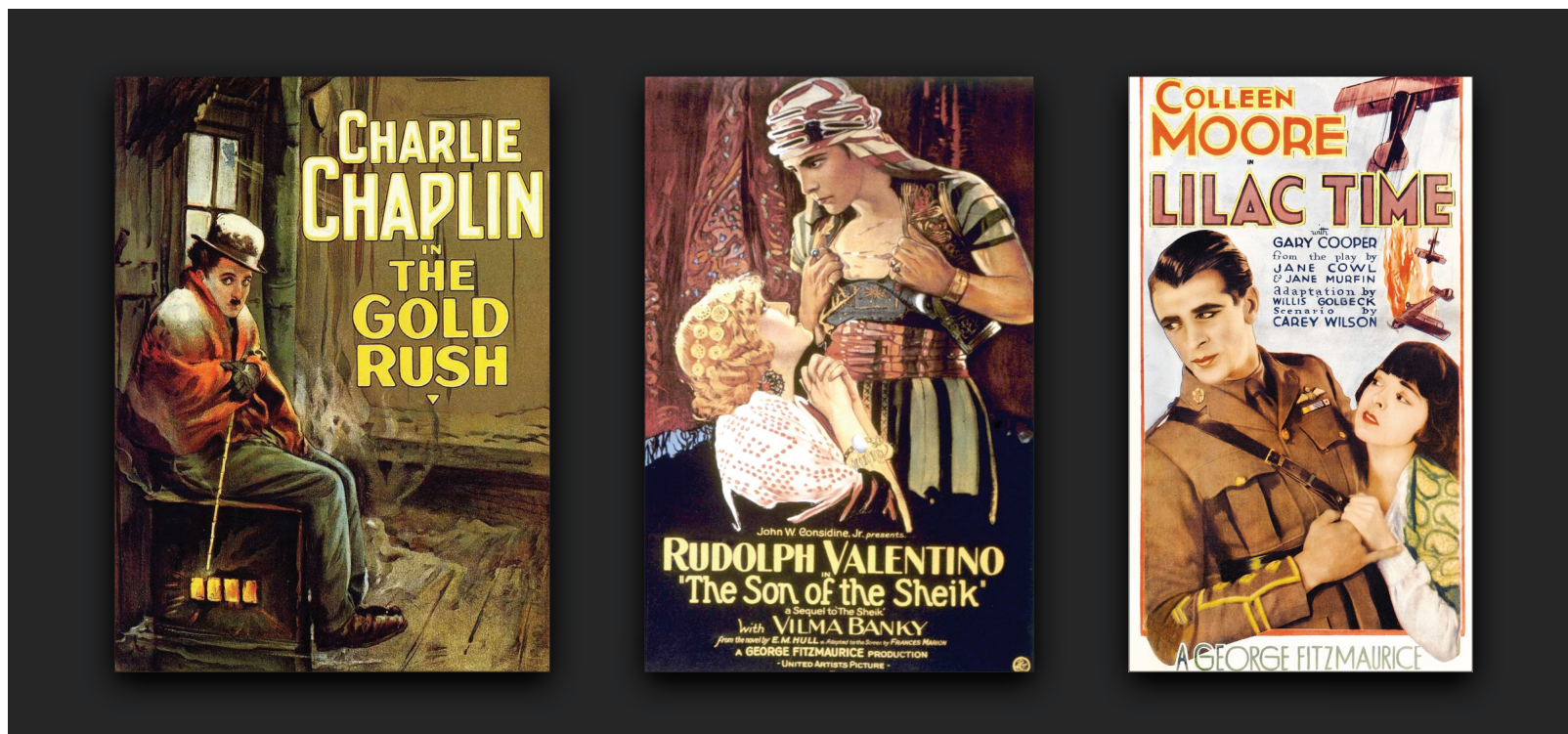
By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

BAKER CITY — Keith Taylor first wrote an original score for a silent movie because someone paid him to do it.

He didn't know much about silent films at the time.

"All I knew was they were a form of entertainment prior to 1929," he said.

He knows a lot more now — after that first one, he discovered the beauty of silent films. He's written original scores for about 15.



"Once I did one, I was hooked," he said.

This weekend, Taylor will provide live piano accompaniment — playing his original scores — during Baker City's annual Silent Film Festival, Oct. 22, 23 and 24.

This is a fundraiser for Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre, and the festival is held at EORT, 2101 Main St. Tickets are \$10 per show and can be purchased at www.bakerlivetheatre.com, at the box office or by calling 541-

523-9652.

Friday, Oct. 22, will feature "The Son of the Sheik" starring Rudolph Valentino. The show starts at 7 p.m.

"Lilac Time," with Gary Cooper, is the film for Saturday, Oct. 23, starting at 7 p.m.

The festival concludes Sunday, Oct. 24, with "The Gold Rush" starring Charlie Chaplin at 3 p.m.

Taylor can't name a favorite among these three.

"They're all really entertaining," he said.

Although he does like Charlie Chaplin.

"That has to be one of the best movies, period, silent or talkie," he said. "It's a classic. He's just a genius at acting, directing, writing."

"Talkie" is the term for movies with sound, which brought an end to the silent film era.

Taylor said silent films were often accompanied by a full or-

chestra. But that wasn't always the case.

"Not every small town had an orchestra, so they'd have a church pianist," he said.

Those scores, he said, didn't survive as well as the films.

That's why he's written his own. "I mull it over and work on it off and on for a year," he said.

To learn more about Taylor's projects, visit <http://aakeithaylor.com/> and click on the link for Taylor's YouTube channel.

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