

THE ANNUAL RACHAEL LOW LECTURE

Screening: Sunday 22 April, 3.30 pm



Ian Christie

Britain could make it! Fifteen years of British Silents discoveries, and why we need to dig further into the mysterious 'teens

When the British Silent Film Festival began fifteen years ago, very little was known or seen from the silent era in British production beyond Hitchcock. Now silent film is booming, and it's clear that Britain had some outstanding talents, even though many of the films are lost. In this Rachael Low lecture, Ian Christie will be looking back at some of the festival's discoveries, and taking a closer look at the period we still know least about - the mysterious 'teens.

Ian Christie is a film historian, critic and curator, who teaches at Birkbeck College and regularly appears in television coverage of film history. He wrote the BBC Centenary of Cinema series, *The Last Machine*, presented by Terry Gilliam, and curated the BFI DVD of Robert Paul's collected films.

The Lecture Series

This lecture series was inaugurated in 2007 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the British Silent Cinema Festival and to acknowledge the contribution made by Rachael Low to the study and understanding of British cinema. A main aim of the lecture is to connect the Festival's research mission to explore the little known history of our early national cinema with the work of a major cultural commentator in a related field. Previous lectures have been given by Sir Christopher Frayling, Kevin Brownlow, David Robinson, Tim Boon and Matthew Sweet. This year, we are delighted to welcome Ian Christie to the podium to deliver the Sixth Annual Rachael Low Lecture.

Rachael Low

Low is one of the most important figures in the history of the study of early British cinema. Her pioneering studies published as *The History of the British Film 1895 – 1929* (BFI) are an unparalleled source for students of the subject and it remains the unchallenged standard text in its field. We are delighted that Rachael Low has graciously consented to lend her name to this annual lecture series which will celebrate her unique contribution to the field of silent cinema studies while championing the use of film archives for wider research.

**PRESENTED
BY IAN
CHRISTIE**

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house**
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