

The 13th
**British
Silent Film
Festival**

Women in Silent Britain

Saturday 17 April, 11am

90mins

From Actresses to Aviatrices

Exploration into the hidden histories of women in silent British cinema is gathering momentum and this session will present recent research and findings on the intrepid women working in and around the film industry before the coming of sound.

Presented as part of the AHRC Women's Film History Network UK/Ireland that was established to encourage new research into women's contribution to cinema

Amy Sargeant

Aviatrices and Airmindedness in the 1920s

Amy will discuss the development of aviation (reconnaissance, exploration and leisure) in the 1920s and its representation in British cinema, especially the involvement of women, as ground crew and in the air, leading up to the 1931 All Women Derby. Extracts will include a Topical Budget item covering aerial acrobatics, an Eve's Film Review devoted to Pauline Gower and Dorothy Spicer and 1918 footage of Lady Sybil Grant with women mechanics working for the Royal Flying Corps.

PHOENIX SQUARE
FILM & DIGITAL MEDIA



Chris O'Rourke

'Britain's Cinema Star-Supreme': The Romance of Violet Hopson

Violet Hopson was a popular film performer in the 1910s and 20s. She was also one of the first women in British cinema to be credited as the producer of her own films. A one-time chorus girl, Hopson worked her way through the ranks of Cecil Hepworth's stock company to earn a place as the studio's 'Dear, Delightful Villainess'. Recruited by the Broadwest Film Company, Hopson was later championed as the nation's foremost film star - talented, hard working, and supremely glamorous. Whilst at Broadwest, Hopson also branched out into production, specialising in horse-racing films, or 'turf dramas', and casting herself as a capable businesswoman, both on and off the screen. This presentation follows the trajectory of Hopson's career in film, looking particularly at her public role as 'Britain's Cinema Star-Supreme' in the context of a post-war British film industry attempting to renegotiate both its place on the global market, and its relationship with domestic audiences.

Phil Carli

Anne and Bannister Merwin

American musician, composer and cinema historian, Phil Carli will talk about Anne and Bannister Merwin, an American film making couple who started their professional careers in the USA working for Thomas Edison's company before moving over to the UK.

