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PRESS RELEASE
Museum puts Rare Film in the Spotlight
Saturday 17th May

The Black Country Living Museum will be rolling out the red carpet on Saturday 17th May for a glittering evening performance of its latest find - a rare print of Buster Keaton's 1927 silent masterpiece - *The General*.

The screening will be part of the European 'Nuit des Musées' celebrations that sees museums and galleries across the continent opening their doors for special evening events on Saturday 17th May 2008. The event is designed to encourage people into the Museum to discover just how much it has to offer.

Half price admission is just the ticket for film buffs, Keaton enthusiasts and visitors who can watch the glamour of the silent screen come to life. '*The General*' shines the spotlight on Keaton's screen magic and is regarded as one of his greatest films.

The film pays tribute to the 'silent films great stone face' and features frantic chases and breathtaking stunts. Set against the background of the Civil War, Keaton plays Johnnie Gray, who mans the Confederate train, *The General*. When Union soldiers steal the train with Johnnie's girl, Annabelle Lee, on board, Johnnie sets out through enemy lines to rescue his train and his love.

Visitors can enjoy a 'one-not-to-miss' screening of an all-time classic in the atmospheric surrounds of the Museum's authentic 1920s Limelight cinema. The whirr and crackle of the projector brings to life the experience of the cinema-going public of yesteryear.

'The General' provides a welcome boost to the Museum's silent film collection. Stephen Howard, Assistant Curator Displays said: "The Museum would be very keen to hear from anyone who is interested in donating or loaning a silent film to us. Tracking down these classic films becomes more and more difficult as time goes by."

Tickets are pre-book only and will be half the normal admission price. Adults: £6.25, Children (5-18) £3.50 and Seniors £5.00. The Dudley Canal Trust will be running canal trips at half their normal price.

-Ends-

Photography:

Images attached

Captions:

David Williams, Costume Guide and Demonstrator films outside the Museum's Limelight Cinema.

Buster Keaton in a clip from the 1927 film The General courtesy of Jerry Murbach.

For further information or images:

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