

SLAPSTICK

FESTIVAL 2012

CELEBRATING SILENT COMEDY
JANUARY 26-29



FESTIVAL GUIDE

WELCOME TO SLAPSTICK FESTIVAL 2012

Bristol's Slapstick Festival returns for an eighth incredible year, bringing laughter and hilarity to Bristol in the dark, early days of the New Year... just when we need it the most!

Slapstick Festival is returning to Bristol and this January it's bigger than ever with seventeen unique events forming our most exciting and diverse programme yet.

We are welcoming some very special guests to the festival for the first time including writer, performer and television personality Griff Rhys Jones who is hosting our annual Gala at Colston Hall and Monty Python's very own Terry Jones, who, along with Sanjeev Bhaskar and 'Seventh Python' Neil Innes will present a special screening of Monty Python's Life Of Brian (1979) at Colston Hall on Saturday night. Other highlights include our opening Thursday evening show at Colston Hall with Ian Lavender (AKA Private Pike) at he reveals the inner workings of Dad's Army from the inside out.

Plus, of course, many of our much-loved festival patrons who will be returning to share their passion as we celebrate some of the finest and funniest moments in silent and visual comedy.

This year we are championing that great master of the stone face expression and extraordinary comic

THE MUSIC

Slapstick Festival is rightly proud of its international reputation for excellence in musical accompaniment for silent comedy. This year sees our Musical Director Maestro Guenter A. Buchwald return with the extraordinary European Silent Screen Virtuosi (ESSV) - featuring Guenter on piano and violin, Frank Bockius on percussion, Romano Todesco on double bass and accordion, and triple-Oscar winner Richard Williams on

performer Buster Keaton in a series of special events at different venues that highlight a selection of his finest - and funniest - work. A specially commissioned score will premiere at our gala event at Colston Hall, which will add a new, magical dimension to Keaton's bonafide masterpiece THE GENERAL (1926).

We are delighted to announce Pierre Etaix that great french 'silent' comic whose finest work in the sixties is experiencing a renaissance at film festivals across the world is coming to the UK in person to be the fourth recipient of our annual Aardman/Slapstick Award for 'Excellence in Visual Comedy' and to attend two special events on Sunday at Watershed.

So, we consider this our finest programme, the perfect antidote to escape the relentless short days and endless bad news and have a laugh at Slapstick!

I hope you will join us.

Chris Daniels
Festival Director

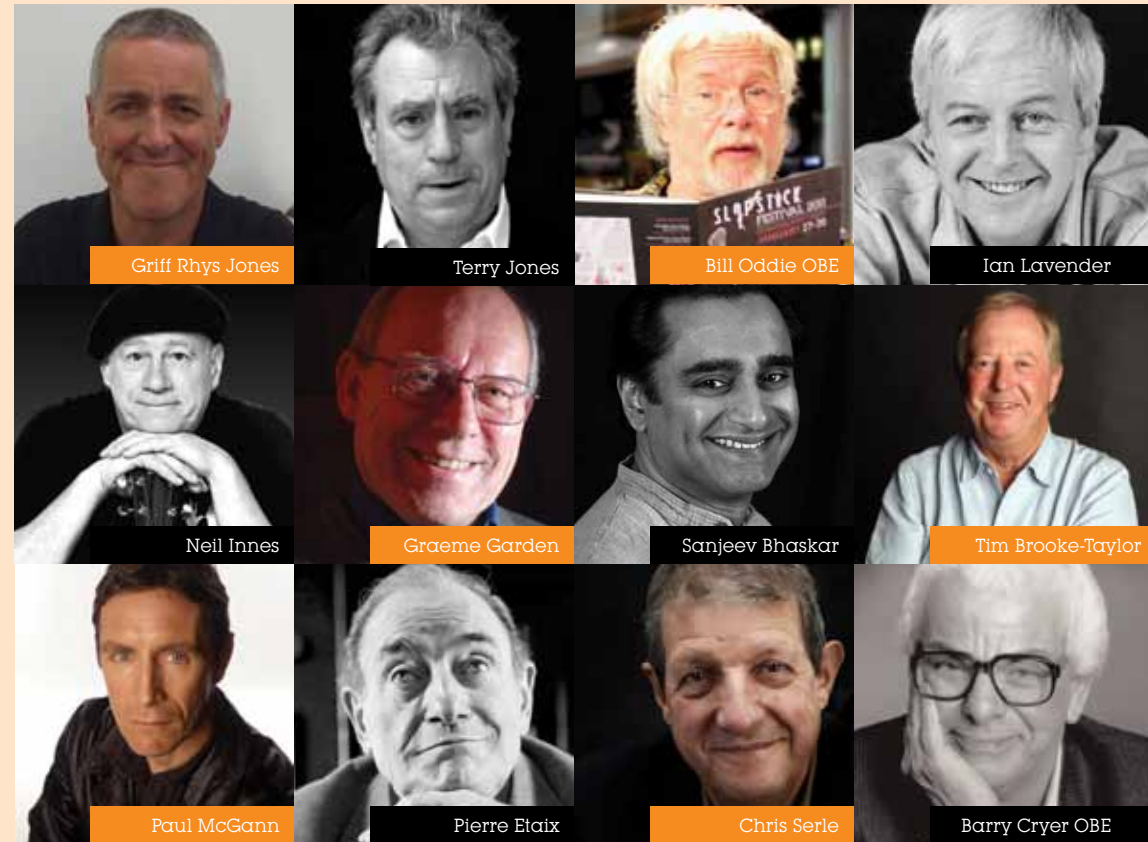
cornet. Plus, this year we are delighted to welcome members of the Bristol Ensemble who, together with the ESSV, will perform exclusively to Buster Keaton's masterpiece 'The General' at our special Gala event on Friday 27 January. In addition, we welcome The Matinee Idles, featuring Paul McGann, and world-class musicians John Sweeney and Stephen Horne will accompany films solo on piano throughout the festival.



European Silent Screen Virtuosi

Matinee Idles

OUR SPECIAL GUESTS



Other special guests include Sire Christopher Frayling, David Robinson, David Wyatt, Kevin Brownlow, Les Bubb and Matthew Sweet.

TICKETS & FESTIVAL PASS

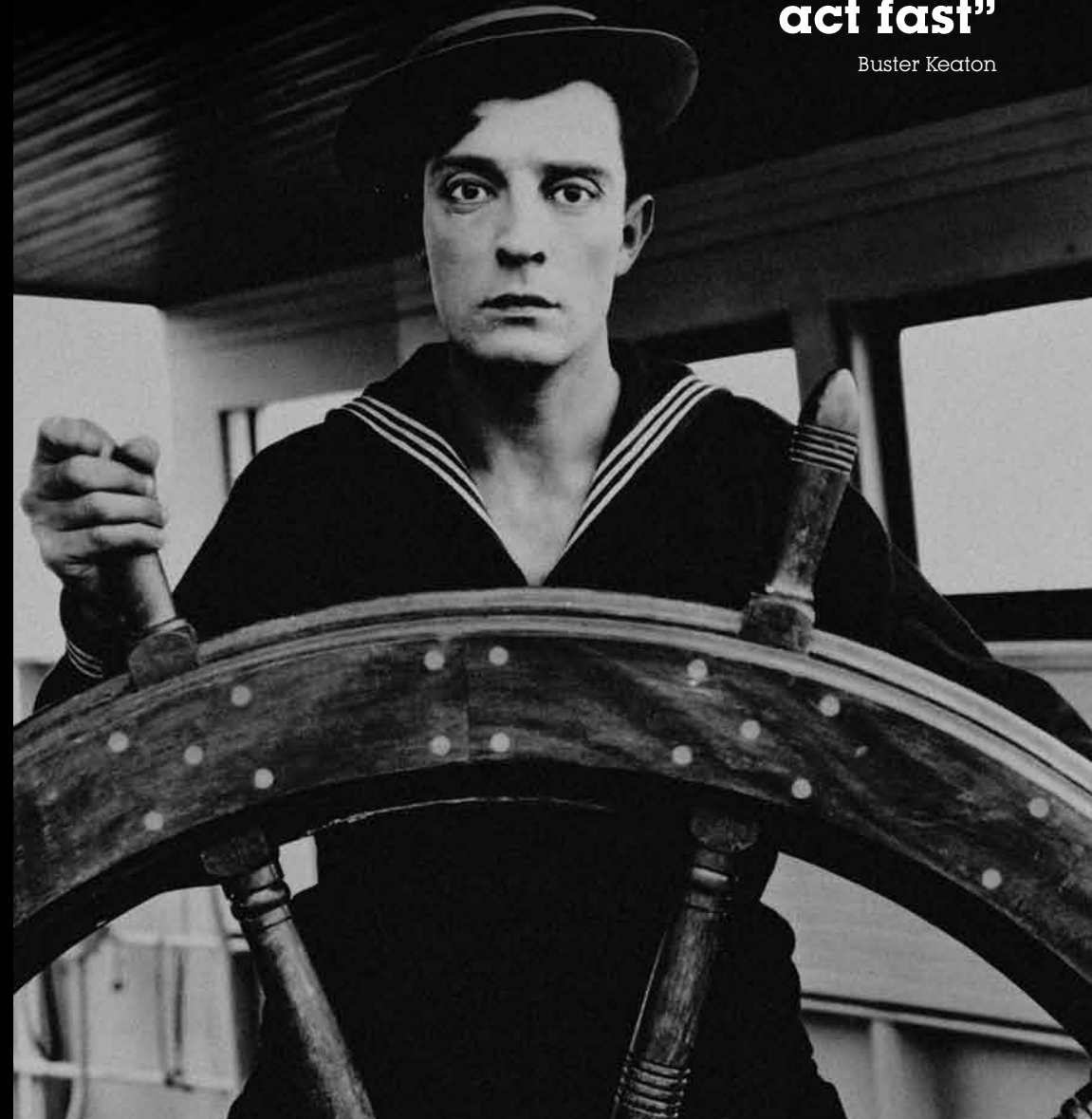
All events are held at Watershed, Arnolfini and Colston Hall. The festival diary on the following page highlights where each event is held. Please book all tickets to individual screenings directly with the venue; box office details can be found on the back page. If you wish to attend every festival event, you can save money by purchasing a Slapstick Festival Delegates Pass from Arnolfini box office or online at www.arnolfini.org.uk. This pass provides access to ALL events held at both Watershed and Arnolfini over the four days for just £85 full / £65 conc. In addition tickets to all three special Colston Hall events can be purchased direct from their box office at a discount price of £40. For information on booking accommodation for your stay during the festival please see www.slapstick.org.uk

FESTIVAL DIARY

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Saturday 21	1300hrs	Les Bubb's Silent Slapstick Funnies	Watershed
Thursday 26	1740hrs	KEATON: Brownlow & Garden	Watershed
	1930hrs	"Stupid boy!": Celebrating Dad's Army with Ian Lavender	Colston Hall
Friday 27	1400hrs	The Clown Princes	Arnolfini
	1600hrs	KEATON: "A Hard Act to Follow"	Watershed
	1930hrs	Slapstick Silent Comedy Spectacular with Gryff Rhys Jones	Colston Hall
Saturday 28	0930hrs	Charles Chaplin: Bridging Three Centuries	Arnolfini
	1100hrs	Graeme Garden on Charley Chase	Arnolfini
	1400hrs	Harold Lloyd Double Bill Event U	Arnolfini
	1600hrs	Bill Oddie's Top Comedy Moments	Watershed
	1930hrs	He's Not The Messiah He's... Terry Jones! Monty Python's Terry Jones presents 'Life of Brian'	Colston Hall
Sunday 29	0930hrs	Slapstick Spoofs	Arnolfini
	1100hrs	MY CHAPLIN	Arnolfini
	1400hrs	KEATON: Young Keaton U	Arnolfini
	1600hrs	Pierre Etaix: The Laughter Returns	Watershed
	2000hrs	Le Grand Amour (1969)	Watershed

**"Think slow;
act fast"**

Buster Keaton



JAN 21 | SATURDAY

JAN 26 | THURSDAY

JAN 26 | THURSDAY



Les Bubb's Slapstick Silent funnies

Les Bubb's Silent Slapstick Funnies

Slapstick's Silent Funnies PG

with Les Bubb

FRI 21 JAN 1300hrs

Watershed £4.60/£3.60 Concs

Discover the delights of Charles Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Laurel and Hardy and Snub Pollard with a little help from world-renowned visual comedy performer and choreographer Les Bubb with live piano accompaniment by Stephen Horne.

+ Cinekids: Slapstick Workshop with Les Bubb 8 – 12 years olds

FRI 21 JAN 1500hrs - 1630hrs

Watershed £2 per child

Ever wondered how silent comedy clowns make you laugh so much? After the Slapstick's Silent funnies screening, join international visual comedy performer Les Bubb for an action packed workshop to explore (and practise!) some of the techniques used by the silent comedy clowns. Wear comfy clothing and prepare for lots of laughter and some falling over. Fee: £2.00 per child.

KEATON: Brownlow & Garden

THURS 26 JAN 1740hrs

Watershed £7/£5.20 Concs

The first of two exceptional events dedicated to 'The Great Stone Face', hosted by Oscar-winner Kevin Brownlow, here in conversation with fellow enthusiast Graeme Garden (of 'The Goodies' and 'Sorry I Haven't a Clue'). Rare film illustrations recall Brownlow's meetings with Keaton in the 1960s, his restoration of 'The General', and his collaboration with David Gill on the definitive Keaton documentary, 'A Hard Act to Follow'.



KEATON: Brownlow and Garden



"Stupid boy!": Celebrating Dad's Army

With Ian Lavender

THURS 26 JAN 1930hrs Colston Hall £16/£14 Concs

A unique chance to hear Ian Lavender discuss in his own words what it was like being in one of the UK's favourite comedies and playing one of our best loved comedy characters - Private Pike in 'Dad's Army'. Ian comes to Bristol's Slapstick Festival with stories of his time on the 'Dad's Army' set.

Ian will be onstage with writer/broadcaster Matthew Sweet, and the evening will include classic clips from 'Dad's Army', the screening of a complete episode, music - and more. Plus, there's a special questions and answers session where you get the chance to ask Ian a question!

A delightful evening of family entertainment, in celebration of one of our best-loved television series.



Ian Lavender

JAN 27 | FRIDAY



The Clown Princes

The Clown Princes

FRI 27 JAN 1400hrs
Arnolfini £7/£5.50 Concs

Chaplin, Buster Keaton & Harold Lloyd were the undisputed kings of silent comedy - or were they?

Thousands more comedies were made in the silent era, starring many, many more comedians. Some rivaled - and occasionally even surpassed - the top names in the laughter stakes. David Wyatt presents his selection of some of the finest and funniest: Charley Chase, Lloyd Hamilton, Max Davidson and Larry Semon among them. For those with Keaton withdrawal symptoms though, Buster may make a surprise appearance (or two)!

KEATON: "A Hard Act to Follow"

With Kevin Brownlow
FRI 27 JAN 1600hrs
Watershed £7/£5.20 Concs

Kevin Brownlow presents documentary footage to illustrate his work, experiences and encounters in filming the definitive Keaton documentary, 'A Hard Act to Follow' (1986), with its spectacular sequences recreating the filming of the collapsing railway bridge in 'The General' - the most elaborate scene in all silent comedy. A unique opportunity to discover the creative methods of one of the greatest figures of film comedy, through the eyes of the world's most honoured film historian.

JAN 27 | FRIDAY



Slapstick Silent Comedy Spectacular ★★★★★★ with Griff Rhys Jones

A star-studded evening of comedy featuring Buster Keaton's masterpiece 'The General' (1926), with special guest host Griff Rhys Jones.

FRI 27 JAN 1930hrs Colston Hall £18/£16 Concs/£8 Under 12s

Slapstick festival's annual silent comedy gala presents three comic masterpieces, celebrating the great silent comedians of yesteryear. Hosted by the inimitable comic actor and writer Griff Rhys Jones, plus 'master of ceremonies' Chris Serle.

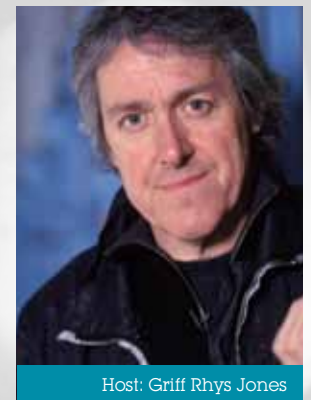
Buster Keaton's 'The General' (1926) is considered an undisputed masterpiece of cinema. Set in the American Civil War, Buster Keaton plays Jonnie Gray, who is unable to enlist in the Confederate army because he is needed as a railroad engineer. His sweetheart, who thinks he's a coward, won't talk to him until he's in uniform.

The evening will also feature shorts from Laurel & Hardy in 'The Finishing Touch' (1928) and Charlie Chaplin in 'The Adventurer' (1916).

The World Premiere of a new score for 'The General' will be conducted by Guenter A. Buchwald and performed by The European Silent Screen Virtuosi and Bristol Ensemble. The Matinee Idles, featuring Paul McGann, will also perform on the night.



Laurel & Hardy



Host: Griff Rhys Jones

JAN 28 | SATURDAY

Charles Chaplin: Bridging Three Centuries

With David Robinson

SAT 28 JAN 0930hrs Arnolfini £7/£5.50 Concs

David Robinson is recognised as the definitive biographer and a world expert on Chaplin. In this presentation, richly illustrated with film and rare stills, he considers the phenomenon an artist, who was already on stage in the 19th century, and who became the most universally recognised personality of the 20th century - and in the 21st century maintains his power as human symbol and supreme entertainer.

Graeme Garden on Charley Chase

SAT 28 JAN 1100hrs Arnolfini £7/£5.50 Concs

To say Charley Chase is one of the comic greats of all time is no exaggeration: this brilliantly inventive and prolific comedian contributed to over 300 films as writer, director, or actor (sometimes as all three) before his untimely death at the age of 46. Chase admirer Graeme Garden selects his favourite shorts to reveal Chase at his finest and funniest.

Harold Lloyd Double Bill Event U

With Barry Cryer

SAT 28 JAN 1400hrs Arnolfini £8/£6 Concs

Barry Cryer introduces two of Harold Lloyd's finest comedies:

An Eastern Westerner (1920)

Dir Hal Roach USA 23mins

One of Lloyd's funniest shorts, An Eastern Westerner is consistently clever and amusing, well-paced and packed with gags.

Plus **Grandma's Boy (1922)**

Dir Fred C Newmeyer 60 mins

A rare chance to see Lloyd's first feature film on the big screen. Lloyd plays an awkward, shy boy who is afraid of everything, including his own shadow. After a bully runs him off from the girl that he loves, his Grandma tells him about a magic charm his Grandfather used to gain courage.



Charles Chaplin: Bridging Three centuries



Graeme Garden on Charley Chase



Harold Lloyd: Double Bill

JAN 28 | SATURDAY

Bill Oddie's Top Comedy Moments

In conversation with Chris Serle

SAT 28 JAN 1600hrs Watershed £7.60/£5.20 Concs

A national treasure, Bill Oddie was one third of UK's top comedy hit of the 70s - 'The Goodies' - and the UK's favourite wildlife presenter, regularly fronting 'Springwatch' and 'Autumnwatch'.

Witty, Candid and unconventional, Bill invites you to join him as he recounts his working relationships with some of the greatest comic talents of his generation, including John Cleese, Jonathan Miller and fellow 'Goodies', whilst delighting us with his top on-screen comedy moments from the last century.

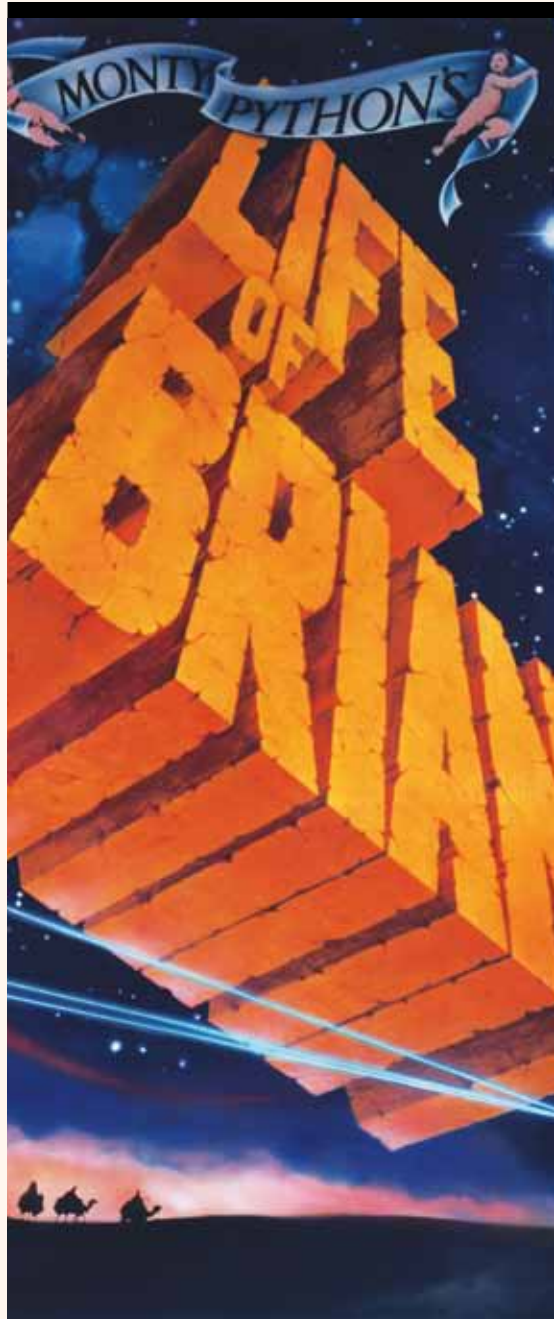
You can expect some Laurel & Hardy, but otherwise Bill is not giving anything away in advance, and we don't blame him! A fascinating insight into the comic influences of this unique comic performer.



Bill Oddie's Top Comedy Moments

JAN 28 | SATURDAY

JAN 29 | SUNDAY



He's Not The Messiah He's... Terry Jones! Monty Python's Terry Jones presents 'Life of Brian'

Plus onstage discussion with Sanjeev Bhaskar

SAT 28 JAN 1930hrs
Colston Hall From £16/£14 Concs

Terry Jones, one of Britain's most famous comic writer/performers, hosts a special screening of the 'Life of Brian' - arguably the funniest British movie of all time - at Slapstick Festival.

This is a rare opportunity for Monty Python fans to enjoy this iconic film alongside the man who uttered the immortal words "He's not the messiah, he's a very naughty boy!" The legendary Monty Python comic will introduce the film and also join 'Kumars at no42' and 'Goodness Gracious Me' star Sanjeev Bhaskar to discuss the film and Terry's role as Actor/ Director.

'Life of Brian' is consistently highly ranked in comedy and film polls by The Guardian, IMDB and BFI, and remains one of Britain's greatest achievements in comedy and film.



Terry Jones

Slapstick Spoofs

With David Wyatt

SUN 29 JAN 0930hrs Arnolfini £7/£5.50 Concs

Long before 'Airplane' and 'Naked Gun', there were silent spoofs of current epics like 'Bending Hur', 'Mud and Sand' and 'The 3 Must Get Theirs'. Before Laurel & Hardy, Stan Laurel almost made a career out of it. See Buster Keaton parodying western star William S.Hart, Ben Turpin reducing Von Stroheim to rubble, Max Linder doing Doug Fairbanks and Will Rogers doing just about everyone else.

Don't miss Roger's 'Uncensored Movies', Laurel's absolute classic 'The Soliers', plus much more.

My Chaplin

With Sanjeev Bhaskar

SUN 29 JAN 1100hrs Arnolfini £7/£5.50 Concs

'Goodness Gracious Me' and 'Kumars at No 42' star Sanjeev Bhaskar selects his favourite shorts and shares his passion for Charlie Chaplin with Chaplin historian and film critic David Robinson. The best of Chaplin, with one of our best loved comic writer/performers.

KEATON: Young Keaton U

With Tim Brooke-Taylor, Barry Cryer, Ian Lavender and Bill Oddie

SUN 29 JAN 1400hrs Arnolfini £8/£6 Concs

Between 1919 and 1922, Buster Keaton completed 22 comedy shorts. Many feel this was the most prolific and productive period of his life. Festival patrons and Keaton admirers Bill, Tim, Barry and Ian have each selected a short to reveal Keaton at his freshest, most spontaneous and inventive. Films include 'The Boat' (1921) and 'The Scarecrow' (1920).



Slapstick Spoofs



Sanjeev Bhaskar

JAN 29 | SUNDAY

**Pierre Etaix:
The Laughter Returns**

MON 30 JAN 1600hrs
Watershed £7.60/£5.20 Concs

Throughout the sixties Etaix consistently produced some of the finest visual comedies on screen, yet due to a disastrous rights deal his films have not been seen for almost 40 years. Étaix is a clown, magician, illustrator and cabaret artist whose films recall the genius of Keaton, Chaplin and Lloyd. He worked with Jacques Tati on 'Mon Oncle' (1958), and then found an ideal collaborator for his own film projects in Jean-Claude Carrière.

In conversation with Sir Christopher Frayling, this special event, co-presented with Bristol Festival of Ideas, celebrates the work of this neglected filmmaker and performer. Plus a complete screening of Etaix's first comedy short 'Rupture' (1962).

Le Grand Amour (1969)

Introduced by Pierre Etaix
MON 30 JAN 2000hrs
Watershed £??/£?? Concs
Dir Etaix Fr 87 mins

To conclude Slapstick Festival we present one of Pierre Etaix's best-observed and most accomplished features. Etaix plays Pierre, who's married to Florence (Annie Fratellini), though he figures he could have married one of numerous other women. Despite the salacious gossip of the elderly local women, who watch his every move, he has enjoyed a largely happy marriage and a satisfactory, albeit not exactly stimulating, life. The arrival of a new secretary, 18-year-old Agnes (Nicole Calfan), turns his world upside down.

ARNOLFINI CAFE BAR

is delighted to have Slapstick here again for another weekend of serious fun. We'll be open from 9.00am and will be offering exclusive deals for delegates and ticket holders throughout the festival.

bananas, custard pies and bacon rolls, speedy salads and a slice for a fiver, free tea or coffee with our wondrous cakes, snifter of the day.

all available to eat in or take out; free wi fi
cafebar@arnolfini.org.uk/0117 917 32305



Pierre Etaix: The Laughter Returns

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BOX OFFICES:

Arnolfini Box Office
(0117) 917 2300

www.arnolfini.org.uk

Colston Hall Box Office
(0117) 922 3686

www.colstonhall.org

Watershed Box Office
(0117) 927 5100

www.watershed.co.uk

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