



Buster Keaton, Prince of Clowns. New 4K digital restoration with soundtrack. Laughter is the best medicine with Buster's hilarious comedy. "Gag for gag this film is one of the funniest of all Keaton's features. A box office success and also one of his most revered films."

Sunday at 2pm October 6 Tickets \$25/ \$20 at the website home page right hand side or call 0419 267 318.

Rollo (Buster Keaton) decides to marry his sweetheart Betsy and sail to Honolulu. When she rejects him he decides to go alone but boards the wrong ship, the "Navigator" owned by Betsy's father. Unaware of this, Betsy boards the ship to look for her father whom spies capture before cutting the ship loose. It drifts out to sea with the two socialites each unaware of there being anyone else on board

The sight of a coloured couple in a loving embrace leads Rollo to decide on marriage. Betsy O'Brien declines the honour, so he engages single passage on a steamship for Australia. Circumstances bring Rollo and

Betsy together on a deserted steamship that is adrift. As both of them are children of wealthy parents, so they have a hard time looking after themselves. The ship drifts to a tropical island and they are threatened by cannibals. Rollo rescues Betsy by appearing in a diving suit. A submarine takes them away.”

“Buster Keaton’s most popular vehicle in his own day, and said to be Keaton’s favorite of his own films, *The Navigator* isn’t as sophisticated and satisfying as his best work (e.g., *The General*), but it’s still brilliant slapstick comedy, with a rousing third act and a slam-bang climax.”

<http://decentfilms.com/reviews/navigator1924>



“The film is called *The Navigator*. However, just as *The General* is a locomotive, the navigator is a steamer. A big steamer, which, through a series of accidents, drifts out into the ocean without anybody on-board, with the exception of the two protagonists: Buster Keaton as Rollo Treadway, spoiled scion of a very rich family but with a simple and intrepid heart; and Kathryn McGuire as the girl, daughter of an equally wealthy ship owner. The film was released in 1924 and it was Keaton’s biggest hit. As in *The General*, the title is misleading for a specific reason:

it reflects an instinctive, poetic animism of Keaton's cinema, where it seems that objects, machines, physical phenomena, all possess a life of their own, whether they are alive or, indeed, inanimate.

I watched many of Keaton's films. Well, if I may, I'd like to confess that *The Navigator* is a personal favorite. However, this is not necessarily a judgment on the merits of this film. Let's put it this way: it is my favorite and the one that moves me the most. It's the craziest, the dreamiest, the most poetic of all. For more than almost three-quarters of the story, there are only two characters: Keaton and the girl. It's a film about love, with all its uncertainties and misunderstandings, with its idyllic, dramatic and tragic moments, its movement forward and its final triumph. Don't get me wrong, love is omnipresent in Keaton's films. And yet, this is the only one where it's by far the main theme, almost an attempt to give a supreme and heroic interpretation of human life. The second most important theme is a counterpoint to the absolute of love: emptiness, loneliness, anguish. A comic and tragic anguish, as is always the case, with Keaton."

Mario Soldati, *Maestri del cinema in TV: Buster Keaton*, edited by Simonetta Campana e Massimo Vecchi, Rai, Roma 1972

"For the restoration of *The Navigator*, ten elements were inspected and analyzed, seven of those – six held by Cohen Film Collection and one by the CNC – Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée – were digitized and compared. One element was finally selected for the restoration: a third generation safety duplicate positive held at the Cohen Film Collection which was scanned at 4K resolution."

<https://festival.ilcinemaritrovato.it/en/film/the-navigator/>





JOSEPH M.
SCHENCK
PRESENTS

**BUSTER
KEATON**

Directed by
DONALD CRISP
Story by
JEAN HOSVET
GEORGE FITZGIBBON
LESLIE BRIDGMAN

**in
THE
NAVIGATOR**

Metro
Goldwyn
Picture

