



**CINECON RETURNS OVER LABOR DAY WEEKEND AT AN EXCITING NEW VENUE,
THE HISTORIC OLD TOWN MUSIC HALL!**

Nancy Olson, Carol Lawrence and Peggy Webber to be honored

with Cinecon Legacy Awards

LOS ANGELES – August 1, 2023 – For more than half a century Cinephiles have gathered over Labor Day Weekend to celebrate the movies at the annual Cinecon Classic Film Festival. Cinecon is where archivists, authors, collectors and film fans come together for five days of classic film screenings, special programs and celebrity guests. Now celebrating its 59th year, Cinecon is dedicated to showcasing unusual films that are rarely given public screenings. The festival is presented in partnership with Hollywood Heritage, the renowned museum and preservation.

The festival will take place over Labor Day Weekend from August 31st thru September 4th, 2023 at The Old Town Music Hall located at 140 Richmond St. in El Segundo, CA. Originally built in 1921, this quaint 176 seat theater has been showing vintage silent and sound films, and presenting live concerts since 1968. Our new host hotel, The Cambria Hotel LAX which is located at 199 Continental Blvd. in El Segundo is approximately 6 minutes from the theater by car, so we will be offering a free shuttle to those attendees who wish to take advantage of it.

On Thursday, August 31st, the festival will open with a welcoming reception at The Richmond Bar & Grill directly across the street from the Theater. This will be followed by a special 100th anniversary screening of the newly restored classic **THE GOLD DIGGERS (1923)**. After that,

attendees will be treated to a screening of the rarely seen film **ADVENTURE'S END (1937)** featuring a young John Wayne. Another film celebrating its 100th anniversary, **WHY WORRY? (1923)**, starring beloved comedian Harold Lloyd will cap off the first night of fun.

Cinecon will be honoring three legendary performers over the weekend with the Cinecon Legacy Award. On Saturday, September 2nd, we'll be honoring Carol Lawrence, who is probably best known for originating the role of Maria on Broadway in "West Side Story" for which she received a Tony nomination. However, we'll be showcasing her rarely seen screen debut in 1962's **A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE** courtesy of The UCLA Film & Television Archive. On Sunday, September 3rd we're thrilled to have two stars on-hand from the 1951 wartime drama **SUBMARINE COMMAND**: Actress Peggy Webber, who's career spans over 75 years in film, television and radio will be joining us before the film. Afterward, we'll be pleased to welcome legendary Oscar-Nominated star of **SUNSET BOULEVARD (1950)** Nancy Olson Livingston, who will be signing copies of her new book, "A Front Row Seat" following the awards presentation.

The popular **KINECON AT CINECON** program returns this year with a tribute to CBS and Television City. This year's **SPECIAL PROGRAMS** will encompass a presentation by music historian and author Mark Cantor who will return with a fascinating compilation of jazz and swing clips from **THE GOLDEN AGE OF SOUNDIES** and author Julian Stone will be hosting **THE MAN BEHIND THE MONSTERS**, a lecture on Junior Laemmle, son of Carl Laemmle, who is responsible for launching one of the most recognizable and enduring franchises – The Universal Monsters. The weekend will also include tributes to Abbott & Costello, Ernie Kovacs, Robert Culp and Boris Karloff (his daughter Sara will be narrating some of the family's home movies).

Among the rare silent films being planned for Cinecon 59 is **LITTLE MICKEY GROGAN (1927)** with a young Frankie Darro and lovely Jobyna Ralston, which will be seen in a brand-new restoration at the festival. Three newly restored Laurel and Hardy shorts will also be making world premieres alongside **DERBY DAY (1923)**, a classic Our Gang short which is being presented for the first time anywhere and was restored from an original 35MM nitrate print. The Library of Congress will be providing several rarities including **FORGOTTEN FACES (1928)** and **GRAUSTARK (1925)** starring Norma Talmadge, which will be making its US premiere.

This year's stellar line-up of sound films includes a new restoration of **THE SCARLET LETTER (1934)** courtesy of Film Masters. Actress Cora Sue Collins who played the part of "Pearl" in the film will be joining us for a brief Q&A before the film. From Universal Pictures comes the 1931 boxing drama **IRON MAN** starring Lew Ayres and Jean Harlow which will be buttoned with rarely seen clips from the silent version. The peppy B-musical **WHAT'S COOKIN' (1942)** starring The Andrews Sisters and Woody Herman in addition to **DESTRY RIDES AGAIN (1932)**, an early Tom Mix western, round out our offerings from that seminal studio. From our friends at Paramount come several rare films from the Republic Pictures catalog including **BULLDOG EDITION (1936)**, **THE MANTRAP (1943)** and **HIT PARADE OF 1947** which continues our presentation of films from the "Hit Parade" series. And that's just a sampling of the features, shorts and cartoons that are

being scheduled for this year's festival, all courtesy of major studio archives, collectors and libraries.

In addition to our regular accompanists, some of our silent films will be accompanied by the Mighty Wurlitzer, a massive 1925 wind-powered pipe organ that has been meticulously preserved so that silent classics can be experienced with live musical accompaniment, just as they did when they were first shown. If you have never visited The Old Town Music Hall, you are in for a treat as it is a truly magical place.

All announced titles are subject to final film clearances. Please visit <http://www.cinecon.org> for schedule updates, details on how to register, and hotel information. You may also visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Cinecon-Classic-Film-Festival-318809389544> Passes are available for purchase online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cinecon-59-classic-film-festival-august-31-to-se-tickets-632915877427?aff=oddtcreator>

- The Old Town Music Hall is located at 140 Richmond St., El Segundo, CA 90245,
- The Cambria Hotel LAX is located at 199 Continental Blvd., El Segundo, CA 90245.

Cinecon President Stan Taffel is available for interviews. Photos will be made available to the media upon request.

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