



Buster Keaton's Silent Shorts: 1920-1923

James L. Neibaur, Terri Niemi

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By the mid-1920s, Buster Keaton had established himself as one of the geniuses of cinema with such films as *Sherlock, Jr.*, *The Navigator*, and his 1927 work *The General*, which was the highest ranked silent on the American Film Institute's survey of the 100 greatest films. Before Keaton ventured into longer works, however, he had honed his skills as an actor, writer, and director of short films produced in the early 1920s.

In *Buster Keaton's Silent Shorts: 1920-1923*, James L. Neibaur and Terri Niemi provide a film-by-film assessment of these brilliant two-reelers. The authors discuss the significance of each short—*The High Sign*, *One Week*, *Convict 13*, *The Scarecrow*, *Neighbors*, *The Haunted House*, *Hard Luck*, *The Goat*, *The Playhouse*, *The Boat*, *The Paleface*, *Cops*, *My Wife's Relations*, *The Blacksmith*, *Frozen North*, *Daydreams*, *The Electric House*, *The Balloonatic*, and *The Love Nest*—to the Keaton filmography, as well as each film's importance to cinema.

Offering a clear and in-depth perspective on these 19 films, the authors explain what makes these shorts effective and why they're funny. *Buster Keaton's Silent Shorts* will enlighten both scholars and casual fans alike about the early work produced by one of cinema's most gifted comedians and filmmakers.

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