



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

PG/61

24 April 2008

LOST AMERICAN SILENT FILMS TO BE PRESERVED

Minister for the Arts, Peter Garrett, today announced a new partnership to preserve and make available eight 'lost' short American motion pictures from the silent era that have been identified in the collection of the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia.

Mr Garrett said through a new program called "Film Connection: Australia–America", the National Film and Sound Archive and the United States National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF) will preserve eight films that no longer survive in the United States.

"The films range from 1912 to 1927 and are important missing links in early film history. Newsreels, documentaries, trailers, and Hollywood promotional films which filled out theatre programs and were widely seen by audiences in the United States and Australia are represented in the project," Mr Garrett said.

The films will be available through the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, George Eastman House, the Library of Congress, the Museum of Modern Art, and the UCLA Film & Television Archive. Dutch film laboratory Haghefilm Conservation B.V, a will handle the specialised film restoration.

"The Film Connection: Australia-America initiative is an important collaboration to preserve and make available a shared cultural heritage between Australia and the United States. It is a great example of international collaboration"

"I applaud the National Film and Sound Archive's leadership in this initiative."