



6335 Arlington Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32211 • NormanStudios.org

Norman Studios Silent Film Museum Presents *Silent Sundays*

For Immediate Release
September 13, 2007

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Silent film series premiers with Valentino classic

JACKSONVILLE, FL – Norman Studios Silent Film Museum, Inc. will debut its Silent Sundays film series with “The Son of the Sheik,” starring the enigmatic Rudolf Valentino. The quarterly event kicks off Sunday, Sept. 23, 6 p.m. at Pharcyde Dance Center, 6354 Arlington Road. Proceeds will be used to restore the former Norman Studios, the nation’s only remaining full silent film studio complex.

A century ago, Northeast Florida was hailed the “Winter Film Capital of the America.” Filmmaker Richard Norman produced six full-length films and scores of shorts that made history as some of the first films to feature African American actors in positive, non-stereotypical roles. Today, exterior renovations are underway on four of the complex’s five buildings, funded by \$681,000 in grants from State of Florida Division of Historical Resources, America’s Treasures and the City of Jacksonville.

Now, Silent Sundays patrons can be part of the effort to save Norman Studios. Proceeds will be used to restore the interiors of the four buildings owned by the City of Jacksonville and for the potential purchase the remaining building, a former exterior stage structure being used as a church. This fifth building, as well as an adjoining property where lies a pool that facilitated river scenes in Norman’s films, are critical to the complex’s full restoration. Organizers aim to reopen Norman’s studio complex as a silent film museum and community center. Plans include workshops, independent film screenings and summer camps designed to teach underprivileged children about careers in the film and television industries.

The evening will begin with a walking tour around the studio property, located directly across Arlington Road from Pharcyde Dance Center and will include an opening reception, silent auction and after party with dancing and live entertainment. Admission is \$5.

The Silent Sundays premier event is sponsored by Carton and Barbara Jones, Film in Florida – The Governor’s Office of Film and Entertainment; Penstripe Graphics and Pharcyde Dance Center. Licensing rights to “The Son of the Sheik” are courtesy of Sandra Birnhak and Box 5. Capt. Richard Norman, Jr., son of late filmmaker Richard Norman; Devan Stuart, chair of Norman Studios Silent Film Museum, Inc.; and Carolyn Williams, co-chair, are available for interviews. Photos of Richard Norman; various Norman film stills; and an artist’s rendering of the planned renovations are available, as are clips from “The Son of the Sheik” with proper credit. For more information, visit www.NormanStudios.org.

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