

Not the Buster Keaton Silent Movie Festival

Pianist Robert Constable will return to play in Kangaroo Valley next month, this time not for the Buster Keaton Silent Movie Festival but for the **Not the Buster Keaton Silent Movie Festival!**

The annual event, which last year completed a decade of hilariousness, has run out of the really funny Keaton movies. It is moving, instead, towards locally-made audio-visual and other works. There will, however, be one link to the past: another chance to see Keaton's masterpiece "The Playhouse", described as "one of the strangest, most daring films ever made by a major Hollywood studio, and surely the funniest and most perceptive study of madness in all cinema. The first ten minutes are a breathtaking display of bewildering surrealist magic."

This year's event will be held at 7.30pm on Saturday October 5 in the Hall. It's partly to welcome Robert to Kangaroo Valley: he has bought a house here and will be moving in before the end of the year.

Special guest will be Australian singer and actor Amelia Cormack (www.ameliacormack.com), who has performed in Australia, the UK, the US and New Zealand to great acclaim. When we heard she was planning to spend the October long weekend in Kangaroo Valley, prior to moving to the US, we persuaded her to come to the show and sing a bracket of songs for us. She will do a couple of cabaret numbers plus Dylan's "Make You Feel My Love", which Adele has covered.

More songs will be heard from The Tri Hards, the male trio from the now-defunct Thirsty Night Singers. In addition, the sonorous baritone of Peter Stanton will deliver the Paul Robeson classic "Ol' Man River" (from "Show Boat").

Sarah Butler will read an epic new poem, by Peter Wesley-Smith, about a young pianist called Albert who played for "the silents" in Kangaroo Valley Hall until the advent of the talkies made him redundant, leading to despondency and tragedy. It will be accompanied by photographs - being taken, as we speak, by Tony Barnett - of comic actor and model John George.

We hear Robert Constable not only as an accompanist and improviser but also as a composer: he is composing music for an abstract movie being shot by Belinda Webster.

Surely the highlight will be the world premiere of Libby Turnock's movie "Cigarette Advertising Through the Ages". This milestone in the development of Kangaroo Valley cinema has a cast of thousands. Well, dozens, anyway, all locals, all hoping to be picked up by Hollywood scouts and whisked off to fame and fortune.

The show is another fundraiser for the Kangaroo Valley-Remexio Partnership (raising money for projects in East Timor). Tickets - \$25, \$10 (kids under 16) - are available from the General Store.

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