



**ADSW Film Club's**

***Reel News***



**Art Deco on Screen: A Centennial Celebration**

**Co-Presented by the Art Deco Society and the**

**American Film Institute**

**April 5–26**

Join ADSW and AFI as we celebrate the centennial of the 1925 Paris International Exposition with four films of the era that showcase spectacular Art Deco elements including set design, costume design and choreography. All films are presented on the big screen, surrounded by AFI Silver Theatre's own Art Deco splendor.

**BROADWAY (1929)**

**Saturday, April 5**

**4:45 PM**





[BROADWAY is set in Times Square's lavishly appointed Paradise Nightclub with an opening sequence that is an Art Deco fantasia. The plot centers on the relationship between the star entertainer and a chorus girl, who become embroiled in gangland intrigue when a murderous bootlegger makes a move on both the club and the dancer. Universal's second talkie was a big-budget super production. The film introduced the custom-built "Broadway Crane" that was the largest ever built to date and used for years afterwards. The crane captures stunningly fluid tracking shots rising to bird's-eye views of the dancers on stage, fully displaying the impressively constructed and detailed multi-story nightclub set -- itself a Deco work of art. In addition to its innovative filmmaking technology, BROADWAY is an equally foundational film for both the backstage musical and gangster genres, and it confirms director Fejos as a visionary craftsman.](#)

**Special Features:**

**Intro by film historian and archivist David Pierce**

**4K digital restoration by Universal Pictures**

**Skyscraper Hat Contest:** Patrons are invited to create Art Deco Skyscraper Hats to celebrate the tall creations in the film's chorus line. Prizes will be awarded.

**FREE for Silver Cinema Club members:** Log in to Silver Rewards for your free ticket. Not a member? [Sign Up Here](#) Entry level is free!

**GRAND HOTEL (1932)**

**Saturday, April 12**

**4:15 PM**







Special Feature: Intro by Karen Burditt, Art Deco Society of Washington

Winner of the Oscar® for Best Picture, GRAND HOTEL is the apotheosis of MGM's carefully cultivated prestige, meticulously crafted glamour and impressive bevy of bankable stars. Greta Garbo, John Barrymore, Joan Crawford, Wallace Beery and Lionel Barrymore play characters whose personal dramas intersect at Berlin's most luxurious hotel. Guided then by the brilliant Irving Thalberg, MGM was known for having superb talent behind and in front of the camera, and the film's real star is the Art Deco hotel sets designed by the legendary art director Cedric Gibbons.

**TROUBLE IN PARADISE (1932)**

**Saturday, April 19**

**4:45 PM**







**Special Feature: Intro by David Lefever, Art Deco Society of Washington**

Prowling Paramount's back-lot version of Venice, Gaston (Herbert Marshall), a suave master thief masquerading as a baron, meets his ideal mate in sprightly pickpocket Lily (Miriam Hopkins). Together, they hatch a plot to get close to wealthy widow Madame Colet (Kay Francis) and relieve her of her excess valuables. Complications ensue when Gaston discovers that the charming Madame Colet is quite the jewel herself. Director Ernst Lubitsch earned a reputation as Hollywood's most elegant and sophisticated director for his urbane comedies of manners. His deft weaving of "pre-code" themes was promoted as having "the Lubitsch touch", garnering three Oscar nominations for Best Director. *TROUBLE IN PARADISE* is Lubitsch's most sparkling creation, with chic Art Deco sets that match the movie's ultramodern attitude.

**MADAM SATAN (1930)**

**Saturday, April 26**

**6:00 PM**





**Special Features: Introduction by Driving for Deco**

**co-founders Chris Arena and Anthony L'Abbate**

**95th Anniversary: 35mm print**

(courtesy of the George Eastman Museum, lent by an anonymous collector)

**Happy hour: Starting at 5:00 pm**

(with a cash bar featuring a signature Paris 25 cocktail)

Better known for his historical epics, Madam Satan was Cecil B. DeMille's first and only foray into the musical/comedy genre. This delightfully demented pre-code sex comedy/disaster movie was an Art-Deco rhapsody for MGM. Wealthy socialite Angela (Kay Johnson) is dismayed to discover that her husband Bob (Reginald Denny) has

fallen for a hot-blooded young showgirl Trixie (Lillian Roth). Angela, adorned in a fabulously sexy costume, is Madame Satan at an elaborate masquerade ball held aboard a zeppelin floating above Central Park. Bob is spellbound by this mysterious Madame Satan until disaster strikes, and love must win the day. The film's spectacular central set piece features an unforgettable dance sequence, highlighted by the Deco-tastic "Spirit of Electricity" (Ballets Russes star Theodore Kosloff) and anchored by the sublime production design of Cedric Gibbons (heavily inspired by Parisian Art Deco) and sensational costumes by Gilbert Adrian. This film was so scandalous in its time that it was not seen again until 1968, when film censorship finally ended. This is a film that is best seen on the Big Screen in the historic Art Deco Silver Theatre.

**Special Features for All Films:**

**Illustrated Presentation:** "The 1925 Paris Exposition" by Steve Knight, ADSW President

**Specialty Cocktail:** The cash bar will feature the "Paris 25" inspired by the classic "French 75"

**Vintage Attire Encouraged:** For the April 29 showing of *Madam Satan*, patrons so inclined will be invited for a fashion walk across the big screen before the film begins.

**Themed Display Cases:** ADSW has curated six display cases which feature each of the four films, the 1925 Paris Exposition, and a visual introduction to Art Deco.

**Event Details:**

**More Information:** [View "Art Deco on Screen" Series Page](#)

**Location:** AFI Silver Theatre, 8633 Colesville Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20910

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