



# SHOW PEOPLE

MGM 1928

Directed by King Vidor



## CAST

Peggy Pepper .... Marion Davies  
Billy Boone .... William Haines  
Colonel Pepper .... Dell Henderson  
Andre .... Paul Ralli  
Comedy Director ... Harry Gribbon  
Dramatic Director ... Sidney Bracy

Screenplay ... Wanda Tuchock  
Photography... John Arnold  
Art Director ... Cedric Gibbons  
Editor ... Hugh Wynn  
Titles ... Ralph Spence  
Wardrobe ... Henrietta Frazer



Duration: 79 minutes  
Projection speed: standard  
Aperture: Full

Score by **CARL DAVIS**  
(30 players)



**LIVE CINEMA**

# SHOW PEOPLE

An hilariously funny and charming love story, *Show People* is also an affectionate parody of early Hollywood. Rooted in truth, the story is the stuff of Hollywood legend: Colonel Marmaduke Pepper is so confident of his daughter Peggy's acting talent that he drives from Georgia to Hollywood to prove her worth. In the studio canteen they meet Billy Boone a comedian who helps to get her work. Rather than a major drama, her first role is as a hapless stooge in a slapstick comedy. She is heart broken but Billy is there to dry her tears. Like a trouper she goes back for more and finds she has taken her first steps on the road to stardom. She lands a job at High Arts, which means leaving Billy behind ... a hazard of the game. Another hazard: she adopts the airs and graces of a diva and changes her name to suit: Patricia Pepoire with 'the temperament of Nazimova, the appeal of Garbo, the sweetness of Pickford and the lure of Pola Negri.' But the public is immune to Patricia's allure. Undeterred, she prepares to marry her leading man. In a desperate attempt to win her back, Billy gate-crashes the wedding. In true Hollywood fashion, there is a happy ending...

The film was inspired by the career of Gloria Swanson. Like Peggy, Swanson started in Mack Sennett's comedy studio. Just as Swanson married a European Marquis, Marion Davies, the actress playing Peggy, was championed by a home-grown aristocrat, newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst. Hearst wanted to promote his protégée's career as a dramatic actress but, as *Show People* proves, her true talent lay in comedy.

Vidor was able to shoot at the old Sennett studios, and cast fifteen members of the original stock company including the Keystone Cops. Chaplin himself appeared in the film as a shy autograph hunter who goes unrecognised by Peggy. At one point, wandering around the High Arts lot, Peggy even sees Marion Davies herself... André was a parody of John Gilbert who appears as himself at three points in the film. Even the studio gateman was the real gateman at MGM. For the closing scene, all the crew of *Show People* appear in front of the camera, on the set of another King Vidor picture, *The Big Parade*.