

PRESS RELEASE

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Thanhouser Company

Film Preservation, Inc.



MUSEO NAZIONALE DEL CINEMA
TORINO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Historic 1911 Film *David Copperfield* Released on DVD Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Charles Dickens

PORTLAND, OR – Thanhouser Company Film Preservation, Inc. and Museo Nazionale del Cinema, Torino, Italy, announced today the release on DVD of the 1911 silent film *David Copperfield* in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Charles Dickens.

The most ambitious Thanhouser Company effort since its first release in 1910 came with *David Copperfield*. Thanhouser released the film over the course of three weeks, one 1,000 foot reel per week, based on Charles Dickens's 1850 immortal story of an English lad's tribulation-filled journey to adulthood. This is the first time the film has been made available to the public on DVD.

The film was praised by a reviewer in the September 20, 1911 issue of *The Motion Picture World*, "The best ideals and fondest expectations of both the friends of the moving picture and the readers of Dickens have been realized."

Thanhouser distributed the film in Europe and a copy of the Italian release of the film was acquired and preserved by the Museo Nazionale del Cinema film library in Torino, Italy in 1955. A new restoration was undertaken in 2012, and a high quality video transfer was made available to Thanhouser Company Film Preservation, Inc. for this DVD.

The film was photographed in and around New Rochelle, NY, including scenes along the New York Long Island sound. The DVD also includes an optional commentary track by Dickens scholar Professor Joss Marsh, and an additional "bonus" film, Thanhouser's 1912 production of *Nicholas Nickleby* based on Dickens's 1838/1839 serialized novel.

The three-reel black and white silent film has a running time of 40 minutes with an aspect ratio of 1.33 : 1. The DVD includes the original Italian intertitles plus optional English subtitles translated by film critic David Robinson. New and original music was commissioned exclusively for this DVD that was composed and performed by internationally renowned musicologist Dr. Philip Carli.

The DVD is \$19.95 plus shipping. It is available for immediate shipment from Thanhouser Company Film Preservation, Inc., 8770 NW Kearney Street, Portland, OR 97229, or on the web at www.thanhouser.org.

For additional details on this DVD, background on Charles Dickens, Thanhouser's film realization of *David Copperfield*, and the restoration by Museo Nazionale del Cinema, please refer to the [PRESS KIT](#).