

Dickens in 'Moving Pictures'! His famous tales on screen in early silent film.

Before film, still pictures from Dickens' stories had already been transformed into exciting visual spectacles for audiences in magic lantern performances and spooky phantasmagoria shows which Dickens himself enjoyed very much.

Today at the Palace as part of Broadstairs Dickens Week 2024 we celebrate some of the variety of films inspired by his work in the earliest years of cinema, the first in 1901. Filmmakers enthusiastically took up familiar and popular stories to encourage new audiences into the amazing new 'moving picture' shows, and few were more familiar and loved than Dickens! No copyright laws prevented filmmakers adapting them freely, from a minute-long single scene to 20 minutes for an entire novel compressed into two reels, from a single camera shot to shooting in real locations referred to in the original, not forgetting the use of early film special effects.

We include short silent films based on *Nicholas Nickleby*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Bleak House* and local connections with Canterbury locations and Ramsgate-born filmmaker Laura Bayley. Each film is presented with a short introduction and either pre-recorded accompaniment or live piano accompaniment by Gregor Hutchison.

Palace Cinema Broadstairs

Sunday 16 June

4.30-6pm

Adults £10/£9, Children £4, CEA Card holders free

