

## BUSTER KEATON: Existential Slapstick



Silent film comic Buster Keaton is generally recognized as one of most daring, inventive and hilarious comedians ever. Using copious clips, David Misch (“Mork and Mindy”, “The Muppets Take Manhattan”, “Saturday Night Live”, “Funny: The Book”) looks at how Keaton’s art springs from the very beginnings of comedy – the mythical Trickster – and how, without dialogue, he employs pretty much every other element of cinema.

Keaton’s physical courage, astonishing conceptual innovations and technical breakthroughs remain unequalled, but maybe the most remarkable aspect of his work is his acting; how the Great Stone Face was able to communicate a panoply of emotions without speaking or even changing expression. His ability to get us to intuit and then feel feelings which are never actually shown is one of the great lessons in screen performance and is just one reason he became the inspiration for countless contemporary actors and filmmakers, including Jackie Chan, Tom Cruise and Johnny Depp.

*Among David Misch’s screen credits are the Emmy-nominated “Mork & Mindy”, the Emmy-losing “Duckman”, the Emmy-engorged “Saturday Night Live”, and the Emmy-ineligible “The Muppets Take Manhattan”. He’s the author of “Funny: The Book / Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Comedy” and is also a playwright, songwriter, blogger, teacher and recovered stand-up comic, and has lectured at Yale, the Smithsonian, the Grammy Museum, Oxford University, the Actors Studio, the American Film Institute, the University of Sydney (Australia), the VIEW Cinema Conference (Torino, Italy), the Austin Film Festival, USC and UCLA. Too much more at [davidmisch.com](http://davidmisch.com).*