



Silent film star Buster Keaton is recognized as one of the most daring, inventive and hilarious comedians ever. (And the subject of two biographies last year.) Using copious clips, we'll look at how Keaton's art springs from the beginnings of comedy – the mythical Trickster – and how, without dialogue, he employs almost every other element of cinema.

While Keaton's physical courage, conceptual innovations and technical breakthroughs remain unequalled, maybe the most remarkable aspect of his work is his acting; how the Great Stone Face is 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 examples of screen performance, and the reason he became an inspiration for countless contemporary actors and filmmakers, including Jackie Chan, Johnny Depp and Tom Cruise.

Join us for an overview of Keaton's amazing career, from his first (and pretty much last) onscreen smile at age 22 to doing pratfalls at 70, scenes that show both his cinematic ingenuity and almost unbelievable physicality, including both the most expensive and the most dangerous stunts in Hollywood history. See why Orson Welles called Keaton "a supreme artist"... and, not incidentally, really really funny.

*"Superb; such rich detail and terrific insight." – Noah Isenberg;  
Chair, Radio/Film/Television Dept., University of Texas Austin*

Keynote speech, The International Buster Keaton Society Convention

*Among David Misch's screen credits are the Emmy-nominated "Mork and 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" and also a playwright, songwriter, blogger, teacher and recovered stand-up comic, and has spoken at the Smithsonian, Yale, Sony, Disney, DreamWorks and Lucasfilm, the Grammy Museum, Oxford University, Austin Film Festival, Actors Studio, American Film Institute, University of Sydney (Australia), Raindance Film Festival (London), Trinity College Dublin, CineStudio Paris, VIEW Cinema Conference (Torino, Italy), USC and UCLA. Too much more at [davidmisch.com](http://davidmisch.com).*