

Thanhouser Company



Trademark

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Thanhouser Studio Documentary Released on DVD and Online

Portland, Oregon – “**The Thanhouser Studio and the Birth of American Cinema**” is a feature length documentary released today by Thanhouser Company Film Preservation, Inc. It was the opening night feature at the Pordenone Silent Film Festival on October 4, 2014.

The Thanhouser Company was a trail-blazing silent motion picture studio based in New Rochelle, New York, where from 1910 to 1917 it released over 1,000 silent films that were seen by audiences around the globe. This 52-minute documentary reconstructs the untold story of the studio, its founders, technicians, and stars as they entered the nascent motion picture industry to compete with Thomas Edison and the companies aligned with his Motion Pictures Patents Corporation (MPPC).

At its center are tales of bold entrepreneurship, financial success, cinematic innovations, tragic events, and the transition of the movie industry from the East Coast to the West and Hollywood. It is a compelling story of fame and fortune, twisted by the vagaries of fate that ends on a bittersweet note. The documentary will be of interest to scholars, archivists, early film historians, and anyone who loves the intriguing stories about the people who pioneered independent movie-making in America.

Directed and narrated by Ned Thanhouser, grandson of studio founders Edwin and Gertrude Thanhouser, the film is written by Melissa Steineger and Edwin Thanhouser, Jr., edited by David Bryant, and features interviews with Judith Buchanan (University of York), Kathy Fuller-Seeley (University of Texas), Paul Spehr (Library of Congress, retired), Shelley Stamp (University of California), and David Robinson (Director, Pordenone Silent Film Festival).

The documentary is now available online for rental (\$2.99) or download (\$9.99) at www.vimeo.com/ondemand/thanhouser, by subscription on www.fandor.com, and on DVD and BluRay for \$19.95 at www.thanhouser.org. To arrange for public or educational performances of the documentary, please contact Ned Thanhouser (ned@thanhouser.org).

Thanhouser Company Film Preservation, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit based in Portland, Oregon. Visit www.thanhouser.org and www.facebook.com/thanhouser.