

## Thanhouser Company



Trademark

Thanhouser Company Film Preservation, Inc.

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Thanhouser Studio Documentary Set for Worldwide Availability**

Pordenone, Italy – Thanhouser Company Film Preservation, Inc. will premier its documentary film “**The Thanhouser Studio and the Birth of American Cinema**” October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Pordenone Silent Film Festival in Pordenone, Italy.

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 50-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).

Pre-orders are now being taken for online viewing beginning October 14, 2014, visit [www.vimeo.com/ondemand/thanhouser](http://www.vimeo.com/ondemand/thanhouser); DVD and BluRay versions will be available in early 2015. Contact Ned Thanhouser ([ned@thanhouser.org](mailto:ned@thanhouser.org)) regarding licensing.

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