

UNIVERSITY OF
R Redlands
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

SILENT MOVIE NIGHT

THE IRON MASK

FEATURING ROBERT SALISBURY, ORGAN

Saturday, November 13th, 7:30 p.m.

MEMORIAL CHAPEL

In 1929, as the silent cinema succumbed to the rise of sound technology, Douglas Fairbanks bade farewell to his swashbuckling persona with a lavish adventure film. Returning to his favorite literary character -- Alexandre Dumas's heroic D' Artagnan, whom he had portrayed in 1921's THE THREE MUSKETEERS -- Fairbanks and director Allan Dwan orchestrated a torrid 17th-century saga infused with more plot twists, tragedy and imbrolios than any of the actor's previous works.

THE IRON MASK finds D' Artagnan's romance with Constance (Marguerite De La Motte) and his brotherhood with the Three Musketeers threatened by the machinations of Cardinal Richelieu (Nigel De Brulier) and Count De Rochefort (Ulrich Haupt).

Beneath the ribald action and intrigue, there are undertones of deep melancholia, a palpable feeling of innocence about to be lost. As guns replaced swords on screen and as the talkies usurped the golden silents, THE IRON MASK was the glorious last hurrah of chivalry... and a loving adieu to the silent cinema as well.

Robert Salisbury started piano lessons at a very early age and by the time he was 13 began studying the theatre organ with Gaylord Carter. After he moved with his family to Catalina Island at age 15

he quickly began a long association with the Avalon Theatre and its Page Organ. A year later, he was hired to play the organ in the Jade Pagoda Restaurant. The Alcoholic Beverage Control became upset that a 16 year old was playing in a bar, so the restaurant owner solved the problem by knocking a hole in the wall and moving the organ bench into the dining room. Bob was in the dining room on the bench and the organ was in the bar! With additional study, Bob began playing-for three churches on the island. They scheduled their services so that a cab could pick Bob up as he finished at one church and take him to the next.

In 1964, Bob left the island for the mainland where he played the organ at the 488 Keys nightclub in Redondo Beach. In 1971, after a nine-year gig at the nightclub, he traveled to Europe where he was able to play many of the major cathedral organs for fun and the experience. In 1973, Bob went to work for Princess Cruise Lines playing piano, traveling throughout the Caribbean, Mexico, Hawaii, Australia and New Zealand. In 1979, he returned to Catalina where he resumed playing the Page Organ for the weekend movies and special events. He currently resides in Running Springs, California, where he spends as much time as allows in his dream music room in his home rehearsing on his Rodgers organ and Roland Atelier. Bob is associated with Robert Tall and Associates as Product Manager, teaching new users of Rodgers and Roland instruments.

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