

The Main Feature



Season 34 - Issue 7  
(screening 12.12.13)

Merry Christmas

## Christmas Special

**"The sheer fun of classic kids' adventure movies is perfectly captured and slightly lampooned in the deliciously winning "Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale." *Variety***



# Plus



Charlie Chaplin  
in  
"Making a Living"

Special centenary anniversary screening of "Making a Living" the first film made by Charlie Chaplin

*and free mince pies!*



# Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale

2010 Finland 84 minutes

**Director and screenplay-** Jalmari Helander  
**Producer -** Petri Jokiranta

**Starring**  
Tommi Korpela  
Ellefsen  
Jonathan Hutchings  
Risto Salmi  
Rauno Juvonen  
Per Christian  
Jorma Tommila  
Onni Tommila  
Peeter Jakobi  
Ilmari Järvenpää

## Extracts of interviews with the director:

*So I take it you do believe in Santa?*

Yeah, I just believe in a different kind of Santa than everyone else, but I hope that everyone else will believe in the Finnish Santa Claus very soon.

*A version of Santa closer to the European legend in general, right?*

I think it's quite different in every European country. In Finland we have this very scary character with the long horns and he's the kind of guy who used to scare children during Christmas. If they didn't behave then he'd come around the house and spank them, or something like that. It's like the total opposite of the American version of Santa Claus, and I was trying to honour the traditions.

*Tell me a little bit about the film's history, the YouTube shorts etc.*

Well the first short film was made in 2003, it cost something like \$4,000 and it became quite a hit on the internet, so we made the second part in 2005, but I had this bigger idea of Rare Exports and was trying to make maybe a third short film. But people would say to me that we should make a feature film about this, so I started to figure out a script. It took me something like 4 years to do it and I'm glad I did it now, but it's been like 7 years now that I've spent thinking about Santa Claus.

*So how does one come-up with such a concept?*

Well, the basic idea of hunting Santas and catching them and training them, was my little brother's idea, and we based the first short film on that. The feature film's idea is more based on Finnish folklore about this evil Santa, and it sprung to me that Americans try to find this evil Santa, because they believe in a different kind of Santa. So they come over to pick on Finnish history and they have no idea what they've come across.

*You mention the Finnish people, how did you implement the country's culture in the film, other than basing it on the country's folklore?*

I think there's a lot of Finland in the movie. Men from the North are very much like my characters in the film. They're hard workers, very rough... There's a lot of me in the main character, Pietari. He's very different from all the rest, and everyone thinks of him as a very childish dreamer, which is sort of the story of my life, trying to convince everyone that I want to be a movie director when I was 15 years old, when everyone else my age, was playing ice-hockey, or fixing cars. So there's a lot of my feelings in there.

*Why did you decide to tell the story from a child's perspective?*

In the first versions the father of Pietari, the young boy, was the main character. I soon realized that it is much more emotional to have a child's perspective. After all, the movie is about Santa!

*Was it because you're catering to 13+ audiences that you chose not to push harder on the gore and horror elements?*

No. I don't like horror films very much. And I hate gore. The movie is just the way I always have imagined it. Maybe I am a childish man.

# 1914 marks the centenary of Charlie Chaplin's first film and we are proud to present that significant film tonight.

Notes extracted from the booklet included with the dvd "Chaplin at Keystone"



## Making a Living

**Finished and shipped:**

January 14, 1914

**Released:** February 2, 1914

**Scenario:** Reed Heustis

**Producer:** Mack Sennett

**Director:** Henry Lehrman

**Length:** One reel

In his first comedy, made from January 5-9, 1914, Chaplin has not adopted his famous character or costume. His character is a dubious dandy who aspires to be a newspaper reporter – a "sharper"; he sports a top hat, frock coat, monocle, and drooping moustache. (He later

adopted a variation of this costume for Professor Bosco- a flea-circus proprietor- in his abandoned First National comedy *The Professor*). The character and costume also harkens back to Chaplin's time with Fred Kame. Indeed, he infused the part with bits of business he had learned from Karno. Nevertheless, director Henry Lehrman (who plays the rival), cut Chaplin's best comedy bits.

The action of the film involves the sharper's efforts to usurp the girlfriend and job of a news photographer (Henry Lehrman). Chaplin was accustomed to months of rehearsing and refining a comedy sketch with Karno. He quickly discovered that at Keystone, subtlety always gave way to speed.

Inevitably, friction developed between Chaplin and Lehrman, who also directed *Making a Living*. Chaplin wanted a character-driven film with a slower pace, while Lehrman insisted on fast knockabout.

He was further confused by why scenes were shot out of narrative order. He had no previous film experience and had always rehearsed and performed his theatrical work in the proper sequence. Chaplin was devastated when he saw the final product and discovered what Lehrman had edited, recalling: "Although the picture was completed in three days, I thought we contrived some very funny gags. But when I saw the finished film it broke my heart, for the cutter had butchered it beyond recognition, cutting into the middle of all my funny business."

"Henry Lehrman confessed years later that he had deliberately done it," Chaplin wrote in his autobiography, "because, as he put it, he thought I knew too much."

Despite Chaplin's low opinion of the film, *Making a Living* was well received when it was released on February 2, 1914. *The Moving Picture World*, an important trade magazine, wrote "The clever player who takes the role of [the] nifty and very nifty sharper in this picture is a comedian of the first water, who acts like one of Nature's own naturals ... People out for an evening's good time will howl."

*The printing of the notes by Repropoint is undertaken free of charge*

**Repropoint**

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## Reactions to **All About Eve** – 28.11.13

Score	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	~	~	~	~	~	1	2	7	12	6	1
Total received – 29	Average Score – 7.79										

### Your Comments

They don't do dialogue like that anymore!

Memories of my youth – first class

So nice to hear every word for a change

They don't come any better than this!

Very enjoyable – well cast and well directed

What dialogue! Films have certainly changed. Fantastic story, great acting.

It deserves all its awards. So well written. Not too sure about the ending.

Smart, sophisticated with great lines, acting and costumes – Bullet bras can poke your eyes out!

Cracking dialogue

Implausible but very enjoyable

One member stated he enjoyed it when it first came out but didn't think much of it when he saw it on the telly recently. He nearly gave our show a miss but was glad he didn't because he enjoyed it again, the big screen & the company of an audience possibly explaining the difference.

Position	Film	Average Score
1 <sup>st</sup>	Argo	8.07
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Even the Rain	7.38
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Amour	6.46
4 <sup>th</sup>	Ivan's Childhood	5.22
5 <sup>th</sup>	Sightseers	4.56

*Our next film*

**8pm on  
Thursday 9  
January 2014**

“the very definition of  
a crowd-pleaser”

“the film's heart is in  
the right place. It  
delivers broad laughs  
and tugs at the  
heartstrings”



François Cluzet Omar Sy  
**Untouchable**  
Written and directed by Eric TOLEDANO and Olivier NAKACHE