



WHARTON STUDIO  
MUSEUM

# Romance, Exploits & Peril: Inside the Wharton Studio in Ithaca, NY



APHNYS Annual Conference 2023



Theodore W. Wharton





NU FANGLED FARMIN'



HUM  
BUG

521



Theodore and Leopold Wharton



Renwick Park (now Stewart Park)  
circa 1913



Renwick Park (now Stewart Park)





Wharton, Inc.  
Movie Studio

circa 1915

Renwick Park  
(now Stewart Park)





I.W. WHARTON



T.W. WHARTON

# The Whartons Contracting *Pioneers in their line*

WE ARE NOW PREPARED TO CONSIDER AND ESTIMATE ON CONTRACTS THAT HITHERTO WE HAVE BEEN OBLIGED TO DECLINE . . . . .

# The Whartons Producers *In the Garden Spot of the East*

LET US RELIEVE YOU OF THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY OF PRODUCING YOUR PICTURES. WE OFFER A PRICE SO YOU MAY KNOW THE COST FIRST

OUR STUDIOS AND LABORATORY FACILITIES COVER 45 ACRES OF GROUND ADJACENT TO LOCATIONS OF NATURAL GRANDEUR.

## WHARTON, Inc.

IN OUR EXPERIENCE WE HAVE PRODUCED EVERY KIND OF FEATURES FROM THE 72 REEL "ELAINE" TO ONE REEL COMEDIES

## ITHACA, N.Y.

Circa 1915

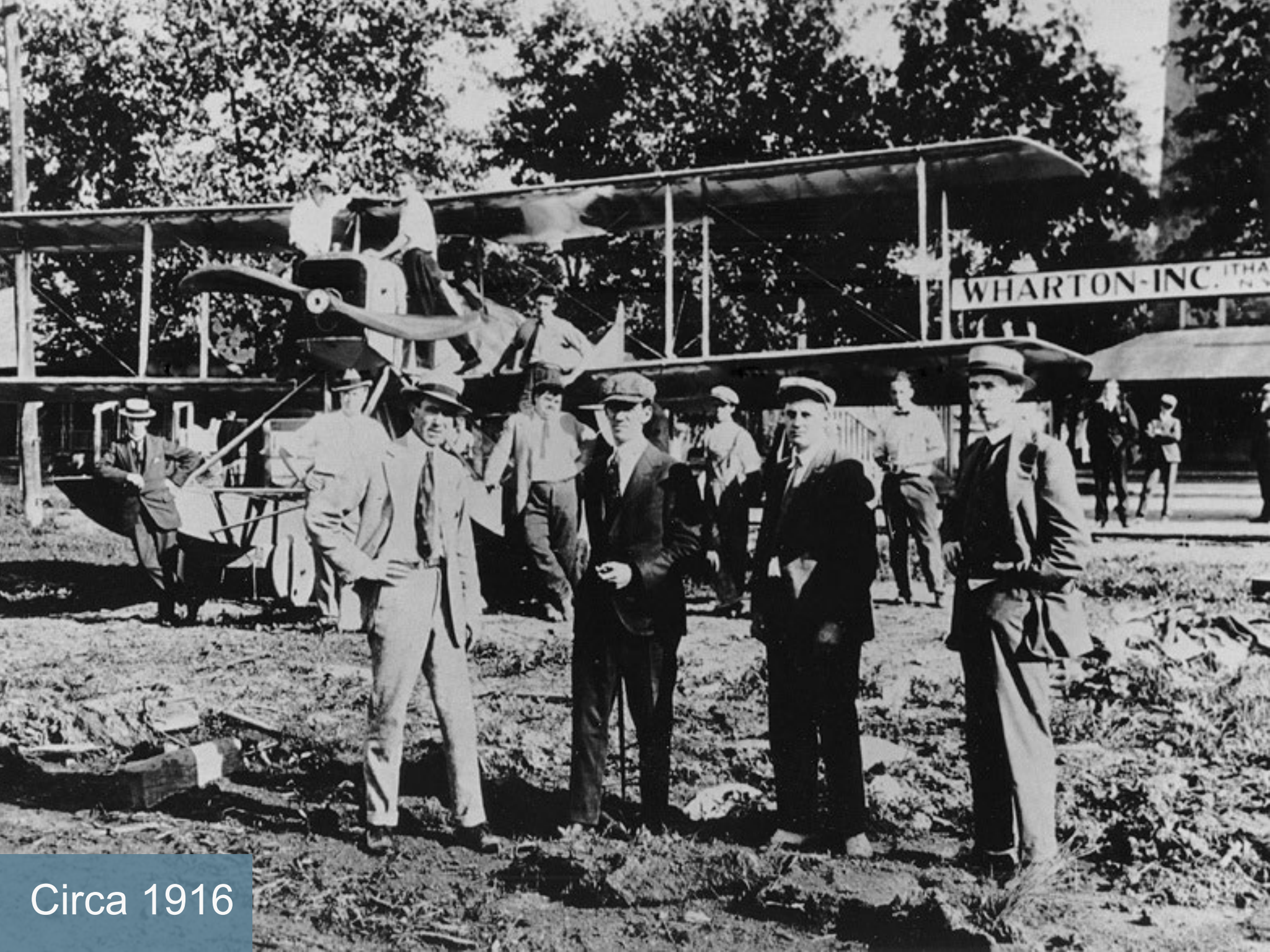


Creighton Hale, Lionel Barrymore, and Pearl White in  
Romance of Elaine (1915)

On a break outside  
the studio in 1915

From left to right:  
Creighton Hale, Pearl White,  
& Lionel Barrymore





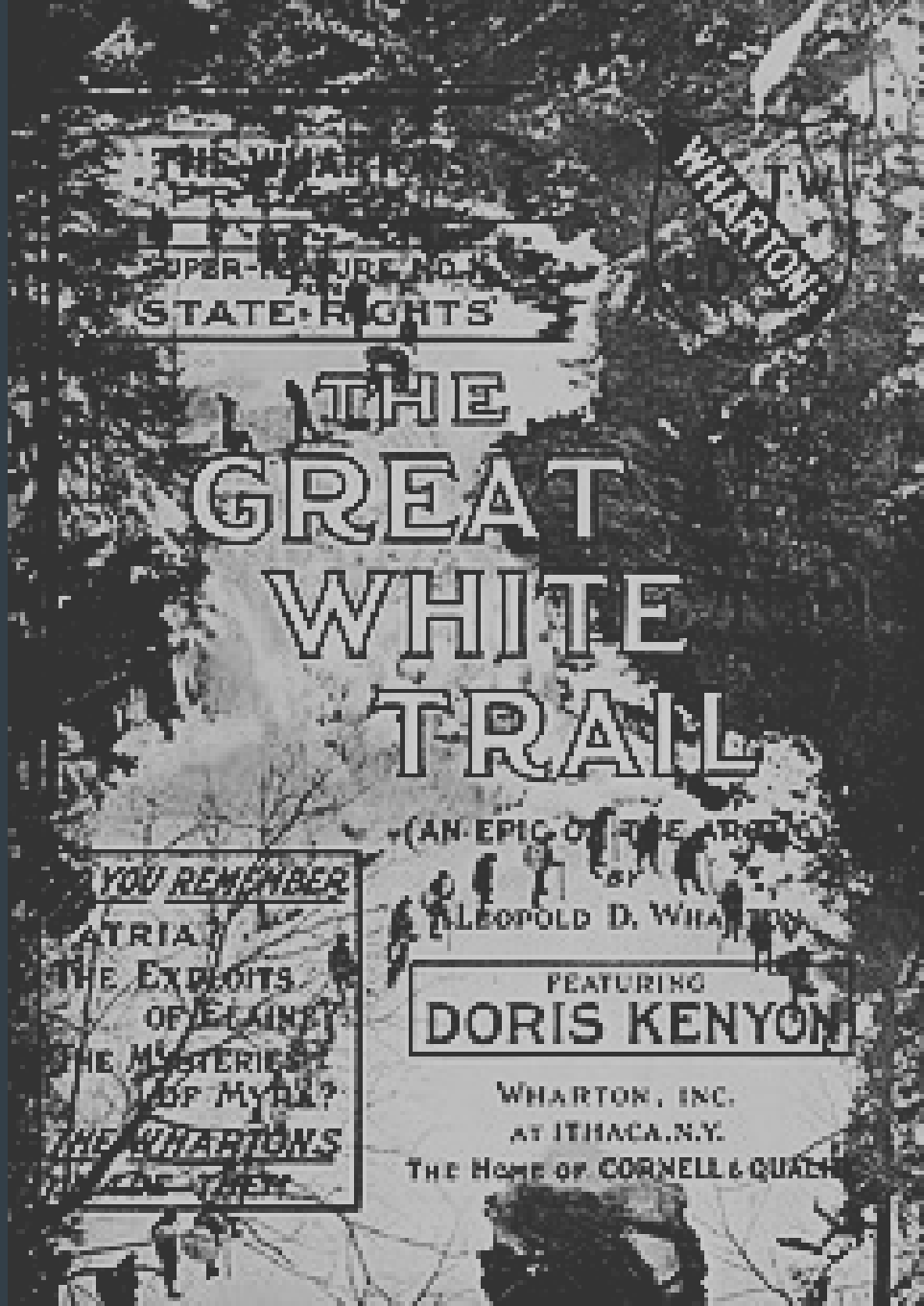
Circa 1916



Irene Castle in  
Patria (1916)



Trolley going over the Stewart Avenue Bridge in Prince of India (1914)



Released  
in 1917



Doris Kenyon



F.W. "Dick" Stewart,  
Ithaca stockbroker  
turned actor,  
starring as the villain in  
*The Great White Trail*  
(1917)



# Crescent Theatre in downtown Ithaca circa 1914





Pearl White and Creighton Hale shooting on Cayuga Lake (1915)



Cast from  
The Mysteries of Myra  
outside the Wharton Studio (1916)

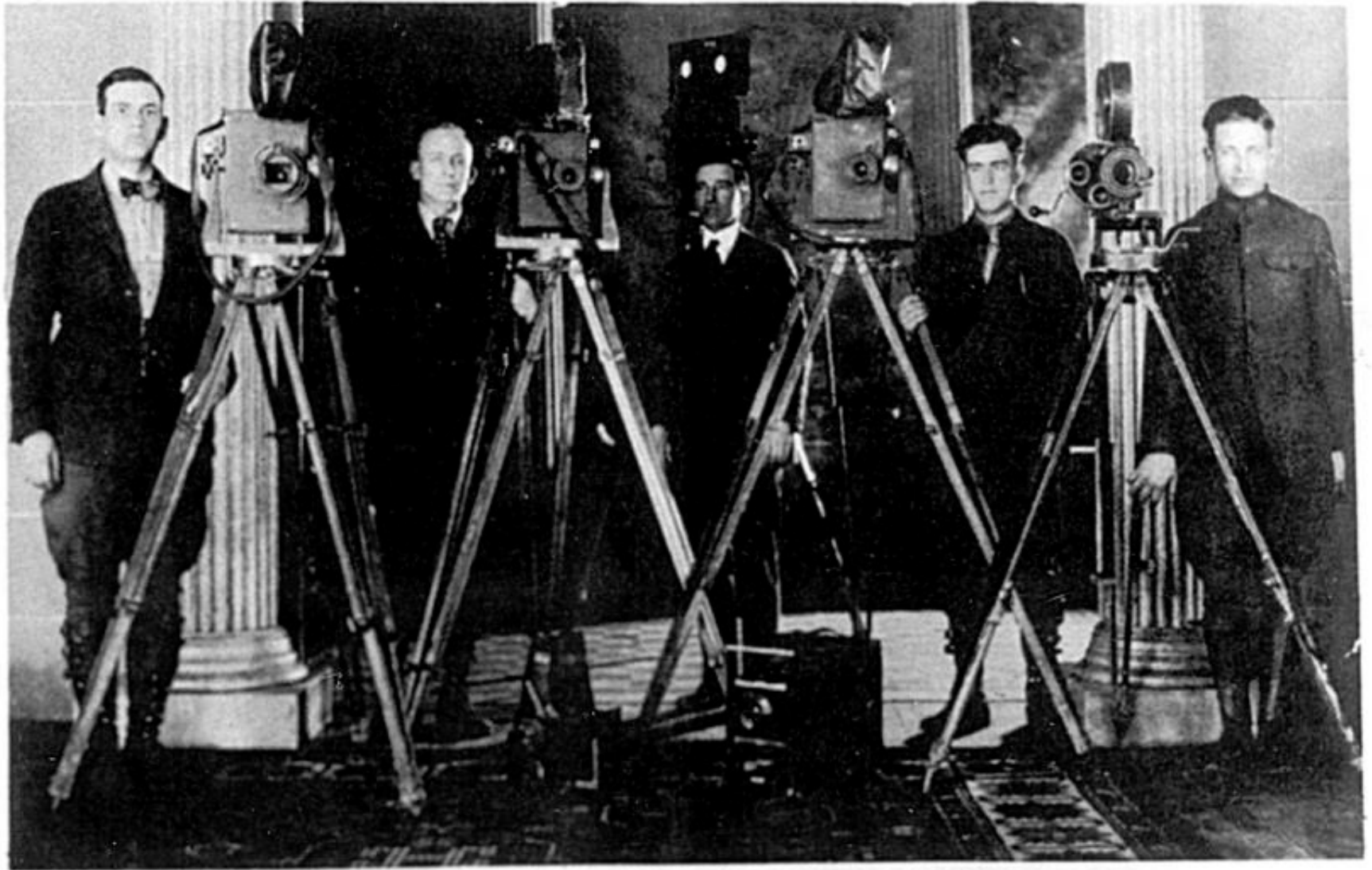
Ted Wharton directing Jean Sothern in  
The Mysteries of Myra (1916)





A scene from the 1916 serial *Beatrice Fairfax* starring Grace Darling (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and comedian Harry Fox (right).

# ITHACA, N. Y.



The Original Camera Crew



Outdoor set by Wharton set and production designers





Wharton Studio production designer Archibald Chadwick



Renwick Park (now Stewart Park) circa 1916





Theodore and Leopold Wharton with cast and crew

THIS OCTOBER

OBSEVE

31

DAYS

OF

SILENTS

31 Make a 2025 calendar from the Wharton Studio Museum and the 31 Days of Silents Contest!

4 When Cinema Exhibitions in the Museum? A calendar of the 31 Days of Silents for the Community.

14 Edward G. Cline, the first Chief of the Coast Guard (1912) screening at Cornell University.

24 Frank E. Woods & Richard H. Wood: Wharton Studio Museum's first silent film screening. Community Film Trail.

25 Frank E. Woods: the first Wharton Studio Museum screening.

31 The House of the Living Dead: The first silent film screening at the Wharton Studio Museum.

Wharton Studio Museum's 31 Days of Silents Contest

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WHARTON STUDIO MUSEUM

QUIET ON THE SET! FILM FESTIVAL

A SHORT SILENT FILM COMPETITION FOR SOUTHERN TIER YOUTH

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS! — OPEN TO AGES 11-18 FREE TO ENTER

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SUNDAY, MAY 22

SCREENING & AWARDS CEREMONY

THIS SUMMER — JUNE 2022

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!

REGISTER NOW! FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION DETAILS VISIT

WHARTONSTUDIUMUSEUM.ORG/QUIET-ON-THE-SET

QUESTIONS? CONTACT QUIETONTHESSET@WHARTONSTUDIUMUSEUM.ORG

FINGER LAKES FILM TRAIL

ITHACA COLLEGE

Ray H. Park School of Communications

MORAL PSYCHOLOGY

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY WHARTON STUDIO MUSEUM

THANK YOU TO PRESENTING SPONSOR RAY H. PARK SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS AT ITHACA COLLEGE & TO MORAL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY FOR THEIR SUPPORT

M&T Bank PRESENTS Wharton Studio Museum's 12th ANNUAL SILENT MOVIE

under *THE* stars

with a musical collaboration by Djug Django, Jr. and a special guest of the Cloud Chamber Orchestra

(1928) BUSTER KEATON

Starring

STEAMBOAT BILL JR

Free Event

AUGUST 20TH / 8 PM SAT. EVE

TAUGHANNOCK FALLS STATE PARK

PRESENTED BY M&T Bank

PRODUCED BY WHARTON STUDIO MUSEUM

PRODUCING PARTNER FINGER LAKES FILM TRAIL

NEW YORK STATE OF COMMUNITY Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Wharton Studio Museum Event Posters

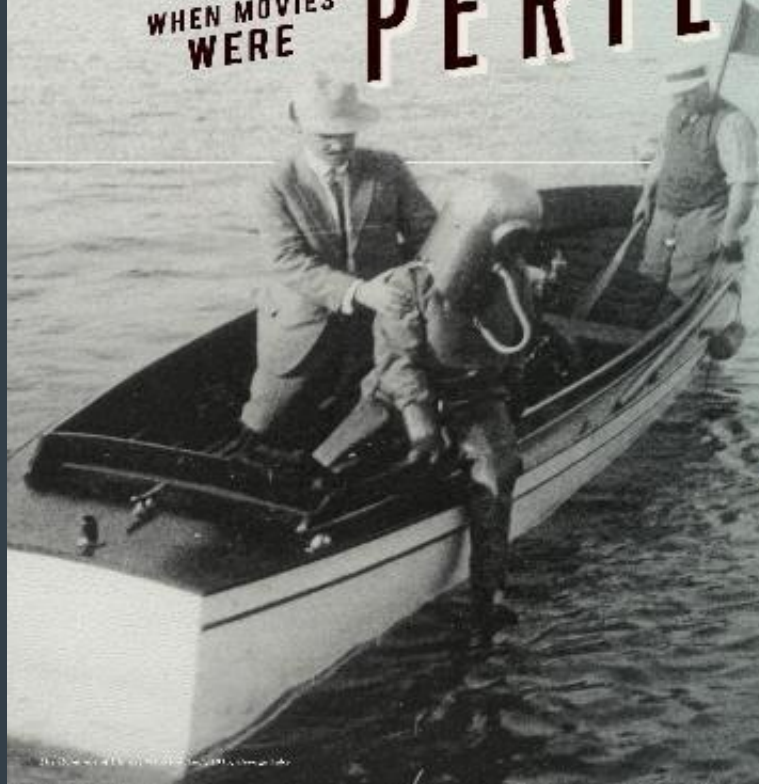
ITHACA MOTION PICTURE PROJECT  
PRESENTS

# Romance EXPLOITS

WHEN MOVIES  
WERE

# PERIL

MADE IN  
ITHACA



WHEN MOVIES  
WERE  
MADE IN  
ITHACA

# OCT 1

AN EXHIBIT IN 8 PARTS

# NOV 6

KANIS

ITHACA MOTION PICTURE PROJECT

TRUST THE VOICES

OF YOUR COMMUNITY

BOOKS & PAPERS

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Romance, Exploits & Peril  
(2011)  
Tompkins County Public  
Library



Photo Players installation at Gimme! Coffee (2011)





Biggest Little Movie City at Tompkins Center (2011)

# Preserving Ithaca's Film History at Harold Square (2011)





# THE BIGGEST LITTLE CITY

## FASHION Ithaca and Silent Film Style

A Multimedia Exhibit about Silent Film Fashion during the Wharton Studio Era in Ithaca

APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup> / AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup> 2016

Human Ecology Building - Level T  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY



FINANCED BY THE CORNELL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND THE WHARTON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, FINANCED IN PART BY THE DONOR DONOR PARTNERSHIP AND THE WHARTON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS





# THE BIGGEST LITTLE CITY Fashion

Ilwaco and  
Silent Film Style

When we added "The Biggest Little City" show, from 1924 to 1926, it was based on Whittier, Ill., a landmark early production company that produced hundreds of films and made a living out of the long business hours of the day. From "Caddy" to "The Biggest Little City" films and "The Big Trail" explore how these film production houses and fashion communities



Winner of the 2018 Richard Martin Exhibition Award  
Costume Society of America



Wharton movie studio  
building, lakeside (2010)

Western façade, newly  
repainted, 2018









WHARTON

COCO BEACH  
SURF CO.  
1963

WHARTON, INC.





WHEN MOVIES WERE MADE IN ITHACA

QUIET ON THE SET





WHAR

CONCRETE  
AS  
MOTION  
ITH

CAYUGA LAKE

PADDLECRAFT DOCK

BENCHES

CAYUGA LAKE OVERLOOK

CAYUGA WATERFRONT TRAIL

COVERED TERRACE

AREA FENCE SCREEN

TERRACE

WHARTON STUDIO EXHIBIT SPACE

CAFE

RESTROOMS

DPW PARK MAINTENANCE FACILITY

DPW SERVICE & PARKING AREA

SITE OF FORMER BAND SHELL

VERANDA

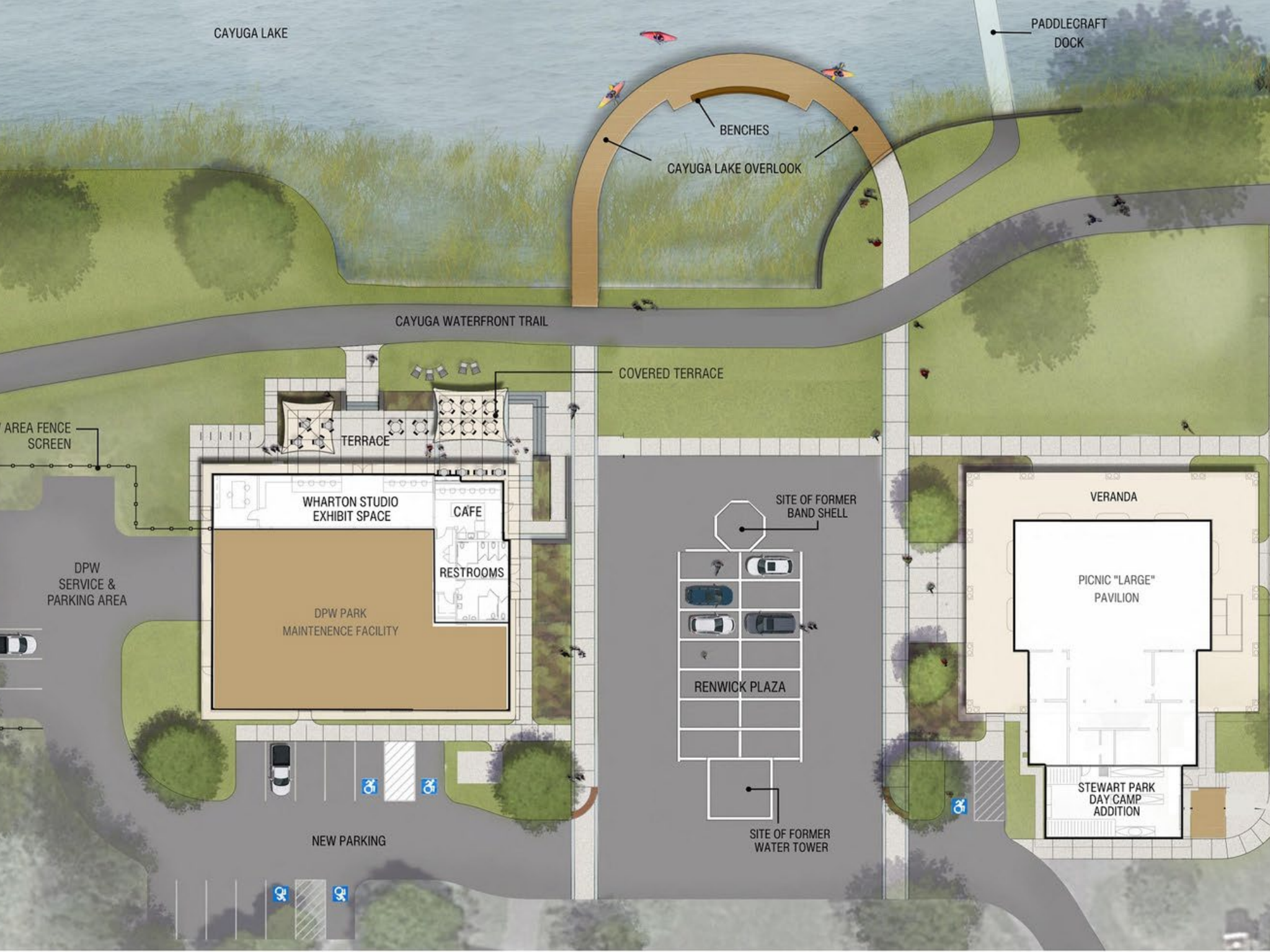
PICNIC "LARGE" PAVILION

RENWICK PLAZA

STEWART PARK DAY CAMP ADDITION

NEW PARKING

SITE OF FORMER WATER TOWER





# WHARTON STUDIO MUSEUM

Making Noise About Silent Film!