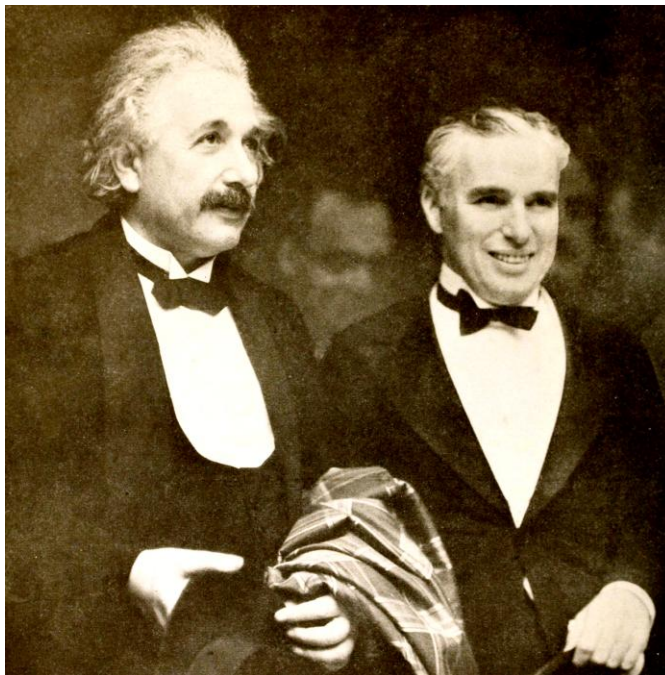


CHARLIE CHAPLIN *City Lights* Film Location Tour
A *SILENT TRACES* Tour of Downtown Los Angeles and Wilshire Boulevard

Seeking urbane, sophisticated locations for his tale of the boulevards, Charlie Chaplin filmed his comedy masterpiece *City Lights* (1931) in the Historic Core of downtown Los Angeles and beside newly constructed landmarks along Wilshire Boulevard. The following self-guided tour is provided by author John Bengtson in conjunction with the Los Angeles Conservancy's June 13, 2015 presentation of *City Lights* at the Los Angeles Theater. John will be signing his Charlie Chaplin film location book *Silent Traces: Discovering Early Hollywood through the Films of Charlie Chaplin* after the show.

1. The tour begins at the Los Angeles Theater 615 South Broadway, where *City Lights* held its world premiere on January 30, 1931. Albert Einstein was Chaplin's special guest.



2. Go right from the theater up Broadway and turn left on 6th Street. Continue for two blocks until the NW corner of Olive, one of the first visited by Charlie and his drunken millionaire friend during their early morning ride home. The view looks down 6th towards Pershing Square, with the corner of the Pacific Mutual Building in view at the left. The building was remodeled in the Moderne style in 1936, losing its classic columns. © 2015 Google.



3. Go down Olive one block to 7th Street. The men turn right from 7th on to Olive past the Coulter Dry Goods building in the foreground and the Ville de Paris Department Store at back. Chaplin lived at the Los Angeles Athletic Club at the NE corner across the street. Harold Lloyd filmed rooftop stunts from *Never Weaken* (1921) on the roof of the Ville de Paris, and used for the department store interiors during *Safety Last!* (1923).



4. Continue one block west along 7th Street until Grand. The men turn left (west) from Grand onto 7th past the Robinson's Department Store. The building was remodeled in the Moderne style in 1934, but the Barker Brothers Building (box) further west remains unchanged.



5. Turn right on Grand towards Wilshire Boulevard, and continue west along Wilshire several blocks, across MacArthur Park, then three blocks further west until reaching the Bryson Apartments on the NW corner of Rampart Boulevard. Chaplin filmed an early Keystone Comedy *A Film Johnnie* here in 1914. © 2015 Google.



6. Continue west along Wilshire past Lafayette Park until reaching the Town House Apartments (1929) at the NW corner of Wilshire and Commonwealth Avenue. Chaplin filmed a scene here purchasing all of the Blind Flower Girl's flowers, as Lafayette Park appears at back.



7. Continue west along Wilshire to the SE corner of Wilshire Place. The side entrance of the former Gardner Mansion, once standing across from the Bullocks Wilshire (built in 1929), appears during the closing scenes from Chaplin's 1921 masterpiece *The Kid*. Los Angeles Public Library 00009338.



8. Travel one short block south down Wilshire Place to the SE corner of Sunset Place, once site of the Clive Mansion. It was here Charlie invited Edna Purviance to go skating during his 1916 short comedy *The Rink*. Behind them appears the Bryson Apartments (see tour # 5, above). © 2015 Google.



9. Return to Wilshire and continue west, left, five blocks or so until the SW corner of Berendo. Looking west down Wilshire, the men turn left (south) onto Berendo beside the Immanuel Presbyterian Church completed in 1928. Down the street stands the Gaylord Apartments (box). The Talmadge Apartments stand to the far left on the SE corner. © 2015 Google.



10. Producer Joe Schenck, the man hired by Chaplin, Mary Pickford, and Douglas Fairbanks to run United Artists, purchased the Talmadge Apartments on the SE corner of Berendo for his wife movie star Norma Talmadge. Buster Keaton was married to Norma's sister Natalie, and filmed *Battling Butler* here in 1925. Los Angeles Public Library 00026649.



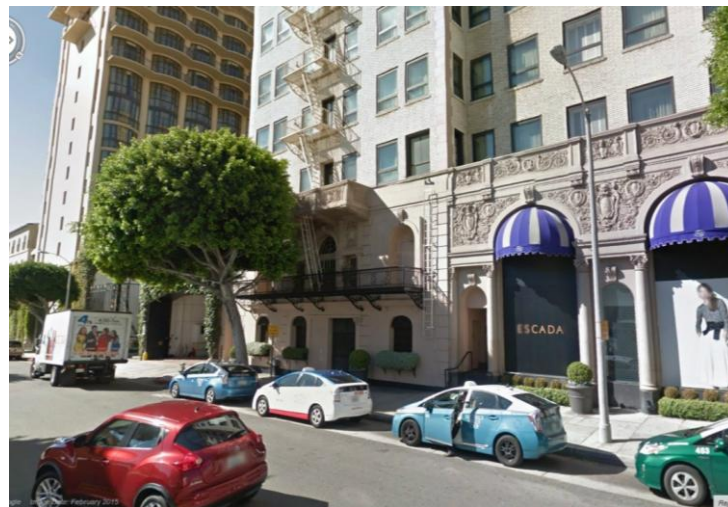
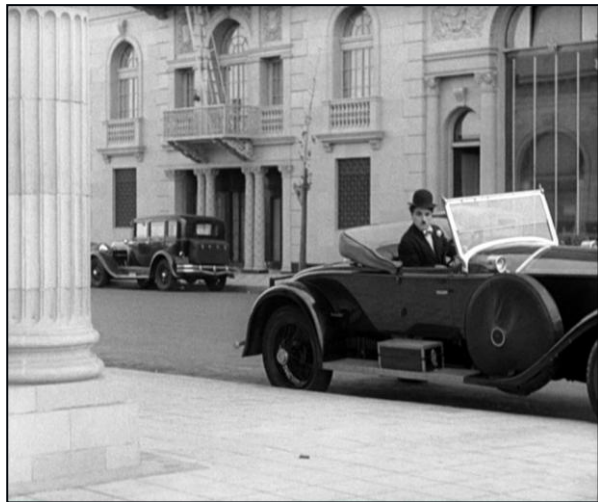
11. Continue west along Wilshire several miles until reaching the NW corner of Beverly Drive in Beverly Hills. The men turn right (west) from Beverly onto Wilshire beside the Beverly Theater (1925-2005). Marc Wanamaker – Bison Archives.



12. Heading west down Wilshire from Beverly, behind them stands Sterling Plaza, built in 1929. © 2015 Google.



13. Continue west down Wilshire one block to the SW corner of El Camino Drive. In an unrelated scene Charlie parks the car beside the east side of the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, completed in 1926. © 2015 Google.



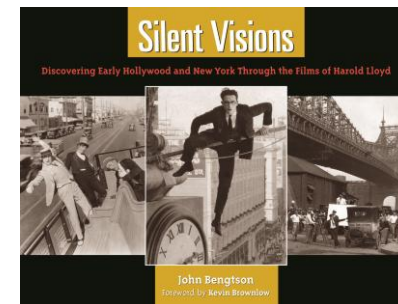
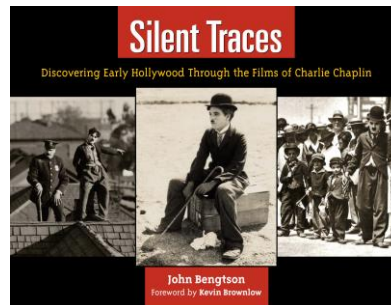
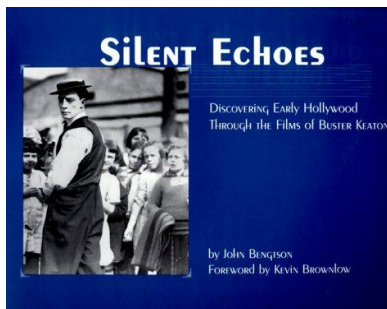
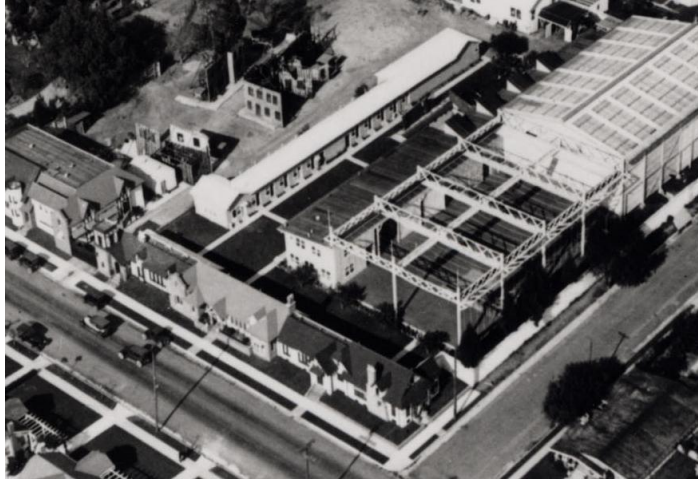
14. Charlie and the millionaire continue west along Wilshire from Beverly, turning right (north) onto Rodeo Drive, while passing by the Beverly Wilshire Hotel. Los Angeles Public Library 00065779.



15. Turn right, north, up Rodeo Drive, following the route Charlie and the millionaire take north from Wilshire. © 2015 Google.



16. This concludes the *City Lights* tour. Chaplin filmed the remaining exterior scenes at his studio and small backlot, at 1416 N. La Brea, now home to The Jim Henson Company. Association Chaplin.



Silent Echoes, *Silent Traces*, and *Silent Visions* explore the historic settings preserved in the background of the great silent comedians' timeless films. Author John Bengtson's work has been hailed by the *New York Times* as a "Proustian collage of time and memory, biography and history, urban growth and artistic expression." Each book features a foreword by Academy Award-winning film historian Kevin Brownlow. Bengtson is a frequent speaker at events hosted by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Film Forum and the Museum of the Moving Image in New York, and the Turner Classic Movie Channel Festival, and has provided bonus programs for several Chaplin, Keaton, and Lloyd DVD/Blu-ray releases. For other tours, videos, and new discoveries, visit Bengtson's blog at <http://SilentLocations.WordPress.com>. Copyright © 2015 John Bengtson. All rights reserved.

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