



DANTE'S INFERNO (1935) SCREENING AND PRODUCTION DESIGN PANEL SPOTLIGHTING THE DESCENT INTO HELL SEQUENCE

**PRESENTED BY THE ART DIRECTORS GUILD FILM SOCIETY
AND AMERICAN CINEMATHEQUE**

Sunday, June 22 at 5:30 P.M. at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES, June 5, 2014 - The [Art Directors Guild](#) (ADG) Film Society and [American Cinematheque](#) will present a screening of **DANTE'S INFERNO (1935)**, spotlighting the Production Design by Duncan Cramer and David S. Hall, as part of the 2014 ADG Film Series on Sunday, June 22, at 5:30 P.M. at the Egyptian Theatre. The "Production Design's Forgotten Treasures" Film Series is sponsored by [The Hollywood Reporter](#).

"*Dante's Inferno* is noteworthy for one of the most baffling sequences in the history of Hollywood design - a journey into hell so spectacular and unexpected that it could have been shot on location!" said Production Designer and ADG Film Series Founder John Muto. Starring Spencer Tracy portraying an amoral hustler, the film is also remembered for a scorching dance number, performed by a 16-year-old Rita Hayworth, making her screen debut billed under her birth name of Rita Cansino.

The film chronicles the rise and fall of Tracy's character starting as a stoker in the bowels of a steamship, then a carnival con man, the operator of an unsafe amusement park, and finally the boss of a gambling ship that catches fire. The Art Direction, from an amusement park to a deco steamship, exemplifies the highly polished studio product of the 1930s until Tracy's character looks into a book on Dante and finds himself on a one-reel trip to hell. As a boatload of lost souls drifts down the River Styx, the film's look abruptly shifts into Victorian expressionism as enormous smoky caverns are illuminated by rivers of fire and brimstone. Hundreds of naked figures push boulders up mountainsides, struggle to escape from their graves or simply writhe in the torment of the inferno.

"The remarkable images are clearly accomplished by a combination of enormous sets, enhanced and extended by masterfully designed and composited miniatures and paintings," adds Muto. "Peopled with hundreds of remarkably expressive extras, the scenes are masterfully composed, lit and photographed. Contemporary accounts breathlessly report 14,000 workers, including 5,000 technicians laboring over 13 months. How so much time, effort, and money came to be expended on such a short but extraordinary sequence in an otherwise standard studio melodrama still remains an intriguing mystery."

A panel including Director and film scholar **Joe Dante** (*The Howling*, *Gremlins*, *Gremlins 2: The New Batch*, *Masters of Horror*), and the Motion Picture Academy's Scientific and Technical Awards Medal winner, VFX Supervisor **Bill Taylor** (*Bladerunner*, *The Fast and the Furious*, *Public Enemies*) will follow the screening, moderated by Muto.

“The 2014 ADG Film Society/American Cinematheque Screening Series has been extremely well-received thus far, with the screenings of *The Prisoner* and *Monsieur Verdoux*,” states Muto. “We look forward to continuing that success with our forthcoming screenings for everyone who loves and is fascinated by great film design.”

For information about the 2014 ADG Film Series: [Art Directors Guild Film Series 2014](#)

Films remaining in the [2014 ADG Film Screening Series](#) are:

- [Sunday, July 20 - THE DEVILS - US version](#) (1971) at the Aero Theatre, with a tribute to Designer Derek Jarman
- [Sunday, August 24 - THE GAUCHO](#) (1927) at the Egyptian Theatre, spotlighting Supervising Art Director Carl Oscar Borg's vision of a mythical Argentina

Representing the ADG are Film Society Co-Chairs John Muto and Thomas A. Walsh, and Debbie Patton, ADG Manager, Awards and Events. Working with them are the American Cinematheque's Gwen Deglise, Margot Gerber, and Grant Moninger. General admission: \$11. American Cinematheque members: \$7. Students/Seniors with valid ID: \$9. All screenings start at 5:30 P.M. 24-hour information is available at 323-466-FILM (3456).

For images: [Dante's Inferno photos](#) For ticket information: [American Cinematheque Tickets - Egyptian Theatre](#)

NOTE TO MEDIA: Media are invited to cover!

About the [Art Directors Guild](#):

The Art Directors Guild (IATSE Local 800) represents nearly 2,000 members who work throughout the United States, Canada and the rest of the world in film, television and theater as Production Designers, Art Directors, and Assistant Art Directors; Scenic, Title and Graphic Artists; Illustrators and Matte Artists; and Set Designers and Model Makers. Established in 1937, ADG's ongoing activities include a Film Society; an annual Awards Banquet, a creative/technology community (5D: The Future of Immersive Design) and Membership Directory; a bimonthly professional magazine (Perspective); and extensive technology-training programs, creative workshops and craft and art exhibitions. The Guild's Online Directory/Website Resource: [Art Directors Guild](#); Follow ADG on Twitter: [@ADG800](#); Facebook: [ADG Facebook](#).

About [American Cinematheque](#):

Established in 1981, the American Cinematheque is a 501(c)(3) non-profit viewer-supported film exhibition and cultural organization dedicated to the celebration of the Moving Picture in all of its forms. At the Egyptian Theatre, the Cinematheque presents daily film and video programming which ranges from the classics of American and international cinema to new independent films and digital work. Exhibition of rare works, special and rare prints, etc., combined with fascinating post-screening discussions with the filmmakers who created the work, are a Cinematheque tradition that keep audiences coming back for once-in-a-lifetime cinema experiences. The American Cinematheque renovated and reopened (on Dec. 4, 1998) the historic 1922 Hollywood Egyptian Theatre. This includes a state-of-the-art 616-seat theatre housed within Sid Grauman's first grand movie palace on Hollywood Boulevard. The exotic courtyard is fully restored to its 1922 grandeur. The Egyptian was the home of the very first Hollywood movie premiere in 1922. In January 2005, the American Cinematheque expanded its programming to the 1940 Aero Theatre on Montana Avenue in Santa Monica. For more information about American Cinematheque, visit the website: [American Cinematheque](#). Follow the American Cinematheque on Twitter ([@sidgrauman](#)) and Facebook ([Egyptian Theatre](#), [Aero Theatre](#)).

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