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GRETA GARBO CENTENARY

*"She is elsewhere,
lost in her dream, inaccessible."*

– Edgar Morin



FLESH AND THE DEVIL

Cinemathèque Ontario, 6/05.

FLESH AND THE DEVIL

Director: Clarence Brown • USA 1927 112 minutes silent
Cast: Greta Garbo, John Gilbert

"Renowned for its electric love scenes between Garbo and Gilbert . . . with Garbo in swooning form. . . . as luminous as ever" (*Time Out Film Guide*). This was Garbo's third Hollywood movie, and the one that made her a superstar, yielding a storm of controversy and huge commercial success, as much for her off-screen romance with John Gilbert as for the raciness of the film's sex scenes. In extravagant outfits made by MGM designer Clement André-Ani, seductive Garbo plays Countess Felicitas, a duplicitous adulteress who destroys the men she loves, two former best friends and military cadets. FLESH AND THE DEVIL's charged eroticism alarmed the censor board and attracted a record-breaking number of theatre-goers. Clarence Brown retains the honour of being Garbo's favourite director, while cinematographer William Daniels was instrumental in immortalizing her singular visage. "A box office milestone – and it also represents something of a high-water mark in the sheer elegance and 'bigness' of movies in their most glamorous era. The sets have a solidity and glossiness which is staggering" (*Classics of the Silent Screen*).

Presented with live piano accompaniment by William O'Meara.

Monday, June 6 6:30 p.m.