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"The Gold Rush"

One of the classic silent motion pictures from "The Silent Years"
presented on public television by Great Western Savings.

CAST:

Charlie Chaplin *the Lone Prospector*
Mack Swain *Big Jim*
Tom Murray *Black Larsen*
Georgia Hale *Georgia*
Henry Bergman *Hank Curtis*
Malcolm Waite *Jack Cameron*

Directed by Charlie Chaplin
for United Artists.

Simply stated, Charlie Chaplin was the greatest and most creative of all motion picture comedy performers. *The Gold Rush*, filmed at the height of his popularity, is justly considered the height of his artistry. His masterpiece. He was the star, writer, director and producer.

More ambitious in its production than earlier Chaplin films, *The Gold Rush* finds Charlie the Tramp adrift in the Klondike—actually in Nevada where the outdoor scenes were filmed—searching for his illusory mountain of gold. It is a situation that provides several of the truly memorable scenes in all film comedy.

We see Charlie, nearly starving to death, prepare an elegant dinner of boiled boot, savoring everything from laces to nails with the relish of a true gourmet. We see Charlie, facing the pathetic prospect of unrequited love, perform the famous

dance of the rolls as he dreams adoringly of the beautiful saloon girl. And in the hilarious climactic scene, we see Charlie and his begrudging partner struggle to survive as their cabin, blown by the wind, teeters on the edge of a giant precipice.

The Gold Rush is marvelous entertainment. It demonstrates most clearly the talent of Chaplin as an amazing actor, his slapstick comedy mixed with touches of genuine pathos and drama. As adept as his own performance is his splendid direction of a fine supporting cast headed by Mack Swain, Georgia Hale, Tom Murray and Henry Bergman.

Where the greatness of others stops at comedy, the greatness of Chaplin went far deeper. His humor and his sense of perspective in viewing the human condition was unique, for all people and for all time.



Charlie Chaplin in "The Gold Rush" (1925)