

## Document Citation

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# **Noah's Ark**

**Michael Curtiz**

**USA, 1928, 105 minutes**

**Black & White/35mm**

*Screenplay:* **Anthony Coldeway**

*Cinematography:* **Hal Mohr, Barney McGill**

*Principal Cast:* **Dolores Costello, George O'Brien, Noah Beery, Louise Fazenda, Guinn "Big Boy" Williams, Myrna Loy, Paul MacAllister**

*Noah's Ark* is a spectacle in the tradition of D.W. Griffith and C.B. DeMille. With the use of parallel stories, one biblical and one set in World War I, it evokes *Intolerance* and *Sodom und Gomorrah* — films directed by Curtiz in the early twenties. Costello and O'Brien play both pairs of star-crossed lovers at the outbreak of the war, and in the sin-filled days before the Great Flood. Contemporary critics found the dialogue sequences a trifle over-written, and Costello's voice was said to "detract from the power of her silent acting", but there is no denying the majesty of the sets and the sweep of the spectacle. Hal Mohr, the original cinematographer, refused to shoot the flood sequence fearing that the giant columns would collapse and injure the cast. His replacement, Barney McGill, used vast quantities of water to flood the set, and several extras, reportedly, were drowned.

Restored by the UCLA Film and Television Archives with the aid of picture elements from the Cinémathèque Française, the Library of Congress, and the assistance of Turner Entertainment Co.

**Fred Allen's Prize Playlets** — USA, 7 minutes. Fred Allen wrote, officiated with a cast of nine, and starred in the three blackout sketches that make up this short comedy.

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