

## Document Citation

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1978 L.A. Int'l Film Expo.

19D 7:45 pm Wednesday, April 19

## Broken Blossoms

1919. Tinted. 1.33 format (full aperture).  
Approximately 95 min.

A silent film with orchestra conducted by Fred Steiner.

*Producer-Director-Screenwriter:* D. W. Griffith (based on "The Chink and the Child" in *Limehouse Nights* by Thomas Burke / *Cinematographer:* G. W. Bitzer / *Special Effects:* Hendrick Sartov / *Editor:* James E. Smith / *Music:* Louis F. Gottschalk, Louis Silvers / *Principal Cast:* Lillian Gish (Lucy, the Girl), Richard Barthelmess (The Yellow Man), Donald Crisp (Battling Burrows), Arthur Howard (His Manager), Edward Peil (Evil Eye), George Beranger (The Spying One), Norman Selby (A Prize Fighter). / *Original Distribution:* United Artists

*This presentation of Broken Blossoms will be the final public screening of the only existing original nitrate print. Because of the historical value and fragile condition of the print, the Museum has produced a new color negative, and is withdrawing the print from circulation.*

The audiences at the premiere of *Broken*

*Blossoms* were overwhelmed by this new kind of film. D. W. Griffith was best known at this time for his spectacles, *The Birth Of A Nation*, *Intolerance*, and *Hearts Of The World*, films that spread over a large canvas. *Broken Blossoms* is a small-scale, studio-made film, a gentle fairy tale of nonresistance to violence. It broke new ground with its intimate acting style, its intensity and psychological force, and its soft-focus lighting and romantic style of photography.

This showing of *Broken Blossoms* represents the realization of a dream we have had at the MOMA archives for many years; to experience this fragile and poetic film in all its flowing tints with orchestral accompaniment, as it was originally shown. Its atmosphere will be fully realized at last, and the celebrated performances of Lillian Gish and Richard Barthelmess may be seen at their full value. Griffith himself worked with the arrangers on the music score.—*Eileen Bowser*

