

Thursday 2 July is ...

SILENT MOVIE NIGHT

at the Baxter Arts Centre
3 Stanley Street, Bloomfield

BLOOD & SAND – RUDOLPH VALENTINO

Rudolph Valentino's star power burns through this exotic melodrama of an Andalusian peasant boy who becomes the greatest matador in all of Spain. Juan Gallardo (Valentino) marries a friend from his childhood, the beautiful and virtuous Carmen (Lee), but after he achieves fame and fortune he finds himself drawn to Doña Sol (Naldi), a wealthy, seductive widow.

They embark on a torrid affair with rather sadomasochistic overtones, but Juan, feeling guilty over his betrayal of Carmen, tries to free himself of Doña Sol. Furious at being rejected, she exposes their affair to Carmen and Juan's mother, seemingly destroying his marriage. Growing more and more miserable and dissipated, Juan becomes reckless in the arena. He is eventually killed in a bullfight but does manage to reconcile with Carmen moments before he dies.

There is also a subplot involving a local outlaw whose career is paralleled to Juan's throughout the film by the village philosopher: Juan's fatal injury in the bullring comes moments after the outlaw is shot by the police.

Journeyman director Fred Niblo mounts this grand piece of romantic nonsense with little subtlety but plenty of spectacle, and in the best Hollywood tradition celebrates the macho glamour of the sport while decrying its cruelty. Valentino's charisma and confidence and smoldering eyes give the film a simmering, sultry life that no remake has been able to capture (*with apologies to Sean Axmaker, Amazon and Wikipedia*)

- Actors: [Rosa Rosanova](#) as Angustias, [Rudolph Valentino](#) as Juan Gallardo, [Nita Naldi](#) as Doña Sol, [Leo White](#) as Antonio, [Lila Lee](#) as Carmen
- Directors: [Dorothy Arzner](#) and [Fred Niblo](#)
- Release Date: 5 August 1922
- Run Time: 108 minutes
- Production Co: Paramount Pictures, Famous Players-Lasky Corporation

Free admission. Refreshments, including popcorn, available for a modest price. Brought to you by the Baxter Arts Centre. Sponsored by the *Bloomfield & Area Business Association*.

Doors open at 7:00 pm. Movie starts at 7:30 pm.

