



VERMONT ARCHIVE MOVIE PROJECT

For more information: **CONTACT**

Orly Yadin
Executive Director, VTIFF
802.310.6423
orly@vtiff.org

Nat Winthrop
VAMP Steering Committee
802.223.6933
natw99@together.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Announcing A Vermont Romance Centenary Tour

Burlington, VT: (March 15, 2016): The Vermont International Film Foundation is pleased to announce the statewide tour of the newly restored and digitally remastered *A Vermont Romance (1916)*. The high definition 2K restoration will tour six towns in Vermont accompanied by a live piano score played and composed by Bob Merrill. The restoration of the film is a co-sponsorship of VTIFF/VAMP and the Vermont Historical Society, supported by small grants and the generous donations of individuals.

Screening dates and locations with live piano accompaniment:

Saturday, March 26, 4pm.	Pavillion Auditorium, Montpelier, Green Mountain Film Festival
Friday, April 15th, 7pm,	Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
Sunday, April 17th, 7pm	Briggs Opera House, White River Junction.
Thursday, April 28 th , 6pm	Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, Burlington Film Society
Sunday, May 8, 4pm,	Latchis Theater, Brattleboro.
Friday, May 13th, 7pm,	Town Hall Theater, Middlebury.

The screenings will be followed by discussions with panels of filmmakers, historians and archivists.

12 more screenings will follow in smaller venues with the music score pre-recorded.

Overview:

The 1916 film, *A Vermont Romance*, is the first feature film ever made in Vermont. This screening is part of a statewide tour presenting the the film with live piano accompaniment and a panel of experts, in six large and 12 small venues throughout Vermont to celebrate the film's 100th birthday. This movie is an extraordinary piece of Vermont folklore. It was commissioned by the Vermont Progressive Party (affiliated with Theodore Roosevelt's national Bull Moose party) and its newspaper, *The Vermont Advance*. Scenes were filmed in Burlington, Grand Isle, Newport, St. Johnsbury, White River Junction, Rutland, Chester, and Bellows Falls. This fueled interest from theater owners from all corners of the state to host screenings. The film is both a romance and a scenic tour of Vermont. It tells the tale of Dorothy, a country girl who befriends a rich girl and two city gents who are out for a drive in the country. Upon the death of her father she loses the farm where she lives and works. Almost penniless, she moves to Burlington to find work, and her adventures begin. Filming began Wednesday June 21, 1916 and was completed 10 days later! The first screening of the film was held Saturday, Sept 16, 1916 in Essex Junction, followed by Burlington, Waterbury, St. Johnsbury, Rutland, South Royalton, Bethel and more.

The Vermont Movie Archive Project (VAMP) was Launched in 2014 by a group of filmmakers, archivists and concerned members of the public. The seeds of the idea came from Green Valley Media who wished to ensure the survival of artists' films in Vermont. VAMP officially became a program of VTIFF in May 2015. The VAMP committee has broadened the initial concept to include all types of films and videos made by VT filmmakers or shot in Vermont. VAMP's Mission is to discover, protect and make accessible Vermont's motion picture legacy.

VTIFF's primary partner for VAMP is the Vermont Folklife Center, with UVM Special Collections and the Vermont Historical Society coming in as secondary partners. VTIFF is also in talks with Vermont PBS about options for partnering with VAMP.

"The Vermont Movie Archive (VAMP) is a visionary program sponsored by the Vermont International Film Foundation, a non-profit organization which has worked since 1985 to discover, promote, and preserve Vermont's film record and archive".

– Senators Leahy & Sanders and Congressman Welch January 2016

The Vermont International Film Foundation (VTIFF) is a cultural non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich the community through film. VTIFF operates year-round and showcases community film screenings, supports programming like the Global Roots Series, the Burlington Film Society and VTIFF For Schools, as well as supporting Vermont filmmakers. VTIFF celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2015. The largest program of the Foundation is the annual Vermont International Film Festival, best known for featuring groundbreaking and independent films from around the world and Vermont. The festival also includes the Vermont Filmmakers' Showcase™, the largest juried selection of Vermont-made films.

More information at www.vtiff.org.