



Charlie Chaplin and Albert Einstein

## Charlie Chaplin Film Fest To Get Organ Transplant

The Charlie Chaplin film festival presented by the Binghamton Theater Organ Society at The Forum Theatre on April 13th will feature master theatre organist Jim Ford playing The Forum's vintage 1922 Robert Morton theatre organ. The organ is the 12th largest of its type in all of New York State, with four keyboards, a 32-note pedal board, and over 200 controls. Ford is the organist and music director at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Vestal and pianist for the Mason Warrington Orchestra.

Charlie Chaplin was the greatest movie star of the silent-film era and is considered one of the true geniuses of the motion-picture medium. Jim Ford will be accompanying four of Chaplin's short films during the festival: "The Immigrant," "The Pawnshop," "The Rink," and "Behind the Screen."

Providing commentary during the show will be Joyce Jesionowski, professor of cinema at Binghamton University. Jesionowski received her PhD from Columbia University specializing in early cinema.

The show starts Saturday, April 13th, at 7:15pm. The Forum Theatre is located at 236 Washington Street in Binghamton. For tickets call 607-722-0020 or go online to BinghamtonTOS.org. They are \$15 for the general public, \$10 for BTOS members, and \$5 for all under 22 and full-time students.



Terry Jones of Monty Python shows us his organ. Mr. Jones will not be appearing at the Charlie Chaplin film fest April 13th. Jim Ford will be the organist on that night, clothing optional.

## Your Local *Police Gazette*, the ONLY Arts and Entertainment Monthly Published by Broome County Natives "We Know Where the Bodies Are Buried!"



Drive up Morgan Road on Binghamton's south side, a short way past Ross Park and the Discovery Center, and you'll come to a small plot of land with a sign out front: "Whispering Pines Pet Cemetery." There you'll find the usual dogs and cats, maybe a budgie or guinea pig or two. But among the various canines and felines you'll also find the tombstone of a Kentucky Derby-winning thoroughbred whose career record of 33 stakes wins—including the Saratoga Cup four years in a row—has never been surpassed. An inductee into the Racing Hall of Fame, the horse has been ranked the 29th greatest champion thoroughbred of the 20th century.

So what is Exterminator—who also has one of the great racehorse names in history—doing with Binghamton as his final resting place? The answer comes from a time when Binghamton was turning out successful businessmen the way Rihanna turns out #1 hits. One of them, Willis Sharpe Kilmer—think Kilmer Building—also bred and owned racehorses. Kilmer owned almost all of the land in the City of Binghamton between Riverside Drive and the Susquehanna River and used most of it for

his racing stables, Sun Briar Court. He owned a number of winning horses, including Kentucky Derby winner Reigh Count. But Exterminator was the most successful, remaining competitive until the ripe old age of nine.

One of the last remnants of Binghamton's champion-thoroughbred past was the famed local bar—and during Prohibition speakeasy—the Turf Exchange Hotel at 176 Main Street. "Turf," of course, referred to horse racing, and the bar's walls were covered with portraits of champion thoroughbreds with a special place reserved for Exterminator. One could sit at the bar, have a beer and pickled egg, and think of the days when winners ran along the north bank of the Susquehanna. *Daily Racing Form* was optional.

## Police Gazette Runs in France

On the subject of racehorses, American paper magnate and horse owner H. Joseph Allen named one of his thoroughbreds "Police Gazette" and has been racing him in France.

Police Gazette raced five times through 2011 and 2012 at various tracks around France, coming in first once and second twice, with one third and one fourth.

Police Gazette just turned four years old, so we'll see how much racing he has left. But we all wish him luck!

## Police Gazette "National," but Bleeds Local Blood

Even though the *National Police Gazette* is a truly legendary American periodical with international renown, the current Binghamton/Ithaca series could not have a more local heart. The publisher of the *Police Gazette* is not a transplant; he grew up in Binghamton, attending MacArthur School for grades K through 8 and then Binghamton Central for 9 through 12, before graduating from both Broome Community College and Binghamton University. He has a picture of himself with Brian Spencer of the Broome Dusters; he worked at Philadelphia Sales.

Ask his wife—who is a transplant—and you'll find he has a devotion to Binghamton as inexplicably irrational as a Met fan's is to that team. But one thing our publisher does know is that the Binghamton region's days of being bland and boring are over. So shun those who would seek to maintain the soft, safe status quo. Follow the *Police Gazette*; it won't steer you wrong.

