

# PLAZACLASSIC FILMFESTIVAL

## NEWS RELEASE

### EL PASO TO HOST WORLD PREMIER OF RESTORED CLASSIC, FIRST TEXAS APPEARANCE BY ALLOY ORCHESTRA

[www.plazaclassic.com](http://www.plazaclassic.com)

*World premier of the restored Bridge on the River Kwai to be screened in El Paso*

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EL PASO, TX (June 14, 2010)** – The world’s largest film festival dedicated to classic cinema has added Fritz Lang’s iconic 1927 film, *Metropolis*, and the world premier of the newly-restored *The Bridge on the River Kwai* to the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Plaza Classic Film Festival in El Paso, Texas.

Eric Pearson, Vice President of the El Paso Community Foundation, the Festival’s sponsor organization said, “The challenge this year was to surpass what’s been achieved in past festivals. I think these two films certainly add to the festival’s scope and will increase awareness of the upcoming Plaza Classic.”

*Metropolis* will be accompanied by The Alloy Orchestra, the critically acclaimed three-man musical ensemble which has performed at such prestigious film festivals in Telluride, The Louvre and Lincoln Center, and which celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Famed film critic Roger Ebert has called The Alloy Orchestra, “The best in the world at accompanying silent films” and their unique brand of percussive musical scoring is a perfect fit for a film of such mechanized modernity as *Metropolis*. The Plaza Classic Film Festival will be the ensemble’s first performance in Texas since its inception in 1990.

“We’re very excited to be showcasing Sony’s million dollar restoration of *The Bridge on the River Kwai* and audiences will experience this David Lean epic the way it was meant to be seen – on a huge screen – and in as pristine a condition as when it was first shown in 1957,” enthused Charles Horak, the festival’s Artistic Director. Horak continued, “One of the highlights of year’s festival will also be our celebration of the biggest cinema find in recent years – the complete *Metropolis*. For 83 years, audiences have had to watch truncated versions of Lang’s

prophetic film and imagine what might have been. Now we have a definitive version – 25 minutes longer than anything previously seen – and The Alloy Orchestra’s accompaniment and original score will make the experience truly complete”.

The festival runs August 5-15, 2010, and will feature rare screenings of classic films, film talks with celebrities and film scholars, concerts and special presentations. Screenings will be held in and around the historic Plaza Theatre Performing Arts Centre, a 1930 atmospheric movie palace restored in 2006.

This year’s festival program also includes other technically-revived masterpieces. A newly restored print of *The African Queen* will be screened, as well as Francis Ford Coppola’s recent restoration of *The Godfather*. Also on the schedule are Michael Powell’s *The Red Shoes* and the black and white Mexican Golden Age classic, *Vámanos Con Pancho Villa*. Other additions to the lineup are being added weekly, as well as some soon-to-be-announced celebrity guest appearances. The Plaza Classic Film Festival will also host several outdoor screenings and concerts, which were hugely successful with festival guests in previous years.

The Plaza Classic Film Festival’s program diversity has grown in its initial years to include more than classic American films. “We’ve added outdoor screenings and concerts, included foreign art house classics, family-friendly outreach and educational programs, intimate conversations with filmmakers and scholars, and created several short film showcases. All were well received last year,” said Pearson, who noted the festival will continue to balance acknowledged classic and popular films with titles that deserve re-discovery.

As in years past, ticket prices will remain \$2.00 to \$8.00, with several screenings free of charge.

**The Plaza Classic Film Festival is a special project of the El Paso Community Foundation, which provides a wide range of charitable and philanthropic services in the region.** Learn more at [www.plazaclassic.com](http://www.plazaclassic.com)

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### **About the Plaza Theatre Performing Arts Centre**

Known as “The Showplace of the Southwest”, the Plaza Theatre ([www.theplazatheatre.org](http://www.theplazatheatre.org)) opened in 1930 to a sellout crowd. It was a first-run commercial movie palace until it closed in the 1970s. Its restoration, which won the National Preservation Award in 2009, was a joint project of the El Paso Community Foundation and the City of El Paso, and resulted in one of the best performing arts facilities in the country. The Plaza Theatre Performing Arts Centre hosts a broad range of arts entertainment, from movies to symphony,

Broadway to opera and rock & roll. The Plaza Theatre is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a “Place of National Significance,” a moniker reserved for only about 5 percent of the historic structures in the United States. It is a unique example of a historic atmospheric theatre with the most modern working parts behind the antique beauty.

The Plaza Theatre has been home to the Plaza Classic Film Festival since 2008.