ARCHIVE PROJECTS GET WIDE RELEASE, ACCLAIM

The Archive is always looking for ways to share its collection and the fruits of its preservation work with a wider public, and the past year has brought some notable successes. The Archive’s preserved version of “Legong: Dance of the Virgins,” the Balinese ethnographic fiction film directed by Henri de la Falaise in 1935, was released on DVD by Milestone Film and Video, Inc. This was named “one of the best and most revelatory DVDs of 2004” by the “New York Times.” The restoration of “Shadows” (John Cassavetes, 1959) was included in the Criterion Collection boxed set of the director’s work, which also turned up on a number of “Best of the Year” lists in 2004. A documentary on UCLA’s restoration of the film was part of the DVD release. The Archive also participated in a major project of the National Film Preservation Foundation, a DVD boxed set of 50 films entitled “More Treasures from American Film Archives, 1894-1931.” The Archive contributed its restoration of the Dorothy Gish feature “Gretchen the Greenhorn” (Chester M. Franklin and Sidney A. Franklin, 1916), along with a number of fascinating shorts and trailers from the first decades of filmmaking. Due to popular demand, the first “Treasures from American Film Archives” has also been reissued.

Released in October 2005: a four DVD set of the 1950s comedy series “Mister Peepers” starring Wally Cox. The set contains the first 26 episodes (plus the original pilot) of the Emmy award-winning show. The Archive holds the best remaining material for “Mr. Peepers,” and the DVD release represents the first time this beloved show has been seen anywhere since it aired on broadcast television some fifty years ago. The DVDs are being produced and released by S’More Entertainment in conjunction with SFM Entertainment and UCLA. Though not preserved, “Mister Peepers” was mastered in the Archive Telecine Suite from the original 16mm kinescopes.

ARCHIVE STUDIES AT UCLA

Commencement for the MIAS Program’s second graduating class was celebrated on June 17, 2005. Graduates Jillian Borders, Brian Drischell, Julie Kessler Gumpert and Hillary Howell concluded their second year of MIAS studies with practica at the UCLA Film & Television Archive, Sony Studios, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Women in Film Foundation, Producers Library Services, the American Cinematheque and the Getty Research Institute.

Two MIAS students received major awards through the Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA). Besides providing financial assistance for tuition, the fellowship avails practical experience through an intensive internship and through AMIA conference participation. Benji Harry ’06 is the recipient of the Rick Chace Foundation Scholarship, awarded to students for their merit and commitment to the field of moving image archiving.

In other news, in February 2005 Candace Lewis replaced Lynn Boyden in the position of MIAS Coordinator. She comes with an M.A. in Mass Communications Arts from the Annenberg School of Communications at the University of Pennsylvania and an MLIS degree from UCLA’s Information Studies Department. She has previously worked in media production and as an editor for peer-reviewed journals.