



The Lost Colony | 1409 National Park Drive | Manteo, NC 27954 | www.thelostcolony.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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1921 Silent Movie to be shown at Pioneer Theatre

As part of the 75th Anniversary celebration of *The Lost Colony*, there will be a special showing of the 1921 Silent Movie that inspired the writing of *The Lost Colony*. This film was shot entirely on Roanoke Island and was a true grass-roots effort involving many locals both behind and in front of the camera. Conceived, written and produced by Mabel Evans Jones, the film tells the story of the earliest English expeditions and attempted settlements in the territory of what is now The United States of America. In her position as Superintendent of Dare County Schools, Mabel Evans Jones became acutely aware of the fact that school children throughout the state did not know the story of the early settlements on Roanoke Island.

With the financial support of the School Extension Division of the State Board of Education, the necessary funds were in place to start work on a movie that ultimately would be distributed statewide through the 1920's and 1930's. At long last the story of the Roanoke Island Colony and the dream of Mabel Evans Jones and her many supporters and volunteers was known throughout North Carolina. The success of the movie and the interest generated by the telling of the story fostered a series of local pageants often being performed as a part of the Virginia Dare Day Celebrations. Once again, these were produced by locals for the community.

Soon Bradford Fearing, a popular political leader, thinker and visionary saw the importance of heritage tourism as a means of economic growth for the island. He worked to make the once remote island one that was accessible from every direction. Roads and bridges were built and improved, businesses started to thrive and the efforts of W.O. Saunders were once again alive in the loving hands of Fearing. Under his guidance, Paul Green's *The Lost Colony* came to life. With the support of the entire community devoted to history and the telling of their story what started as a celebration in 1937 continues today as the Premier Symphonic Outdoor Drama in the nation.

This rich history is cause for celebration on many levels. The showing of the 1921 Silent Movie is a fitting way to start our look back at our rich heritage. The community is encouraged to attend the showing on Sunday, February 5, 2012 at 3:00 pm in the Pioneer Theatre. There is

no charge for the showing, and families are encouraged to bring school age children for this entertaining history lesson and part of cinema history. There is no charge for this event. The special showing is made possible by a generous gift from Ace Hardware.

For more information about *The Lost Colony* and the 75th Anniversary season please visit the website at www.thelostcolony.org. The season opens on June 1, 2012 and runs through August 23, 2012, at the Waterside Theatre located in the Fort Raleigh National Historical Site. The show is produced by the Roanoke Island Historical Association.

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About *The Lost Colony*

First staged in 1937, *The Lost Colony* is the nation's premier and longest-running outdoor symphonic drama. Written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paul Green, *The Lost Colony's* 75th anniversary season plays June 01 through August 23, 2012 at Manteo's Waterside Theatre, on North Carolina's Outer Banks. For tickets and information, go to www.thelostcolony.org or call (252) 473-2127.