

## **PROJECT UPDATE**

FAMOUS VICTOR ARTISTS FILM RESTORATION ON HOLD. ALTERNATE RESTORATION IN PROGRESS.

Last fall, over 100 people generously contributed to the restoration of the Vitaphone short film, At The Club. APS crowdfunded this based on the recent discovery of the film's soundtrack in Australia. The existence of the film's picture was based on stills made about 25 years ago.

The support for this restoration was impressive. In less than three weeks, we raised the \$15,000 needed to fund the project!

Once the project was funded, problems emerged in finding the negative of the picture. The search for it continues and our hope is that it will be found. However, we couldn't ask our donors to wait indefinitely. Instead, with most donors approving, we decided to focus on returning another Vitaphone short to the silver screen.

BEN POLLACK AND HIS PARK CENTRAL ORCHESTRA was made shortly after At the Club (1929). It features a young Benny Goodman and Jack Teagarden, and Teagarden both plays and talks. The Library of Congress has a 35mm negative of the film but a complete version of its soundtrack was unavailable. Some time back an incomplete soundtrack disc was synced up with a mangled 16mm print but that is all anyone has seen of this film in decades.

In February, there was a breakthrough. A complete soundtrack disc was found. Currently, this disc and the 35mm negative are being restored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive. APS plans to premiere this complete, stunning restoration at the Expo Banquet in August.