TONIGHT’S SHOW!
Weston Gilmore - star of the page! • The Adventures of Kid Keaton
Puzzling Times • Rogue’s Gallery
And... Buster Kitten!
Hi Weston! We heard you like silent movies, is that right?

Yes. Good "thumbs up sign"

Our favourite is Buster Keaton, there’s lots we love about him. What do you like about Buster?

Um, I like he’s funny. I’m funny, too.

Can you remember any of the stunts Buster has done? Have you tried them?

He’s on a train…and he does tricks with his hat all the time. The trick where his hat flies away on the boat is really funny. I try to do Buster Keaton tricks all the time. I try to flip my hat on my head. I set up a trampoline in my bedroom so I can jump from my bed to the floor to the trampoline and do flips like Buster.

Buster lived a long time ago, not as far as the dinosaurs, but before you were born. If you could go back in time & meet him, what would you say?

How many times did you break your bones?

And I would ask if Harry Houdini was nice.

What Buster Keaton movie do you think is the best one to watch?

The one with the train. I laugh the whole time.

Your Mommy has written a book about silent movies. Can you tell us about it?

It’s called ‘Movies Are Magic’. It teaches kids about movies, it tells babies about classic movies. I’m in Mommy’s book and our fake dog, Oscar, is in it. You learn about a trip to the moon & ‘The Wizard of Oz’. And there is a whole part just about Buster Keaton. He is the funniest from all the classic movie days.
We really do have to agree on that one, Weston! Thank you so much for taking time to talk with us.

If you’d like to take a look at ‘Movies Are Magic: A Kid’s History of the Moving Image From the Dawn of Time to About 1939’ for yourself, it’s available here: amazon.com/Movies-Are-Magic-History-Moving/dp/1724364308
When Buster Keaton was a boy, he and his parents traveled all over America (and beyond!) to perform in their daily shows. It meant Buster never really had a place to call home...until he was 12 years old. His father, Joe, helped found the Actor’s Colony in Bluffton, Muskegon, Michigan. Every year they would spend two weeks Summer holiday in the town amongst other vaudeville friends. Their house was built a year later and called ‘Jingles' Jungle’ named after Buster’s little brother, Harry 'Jingles' Keaton.

It was a time of swimming, sailing and mischief-making for our Kid Keaton. One trick he came up with was 'The Clown Pole'. Buster fixed up a fishing pole on the pier, it’s line in the water with a bright red float sat on the surface. To anyone passing by it would look like someone had left it for a moment to deal with other business. But, underneath the water the line continued to a pulley and stretched all the way to the clubhouse, where an audience would be watching...and one of them would pull on the line!

The passerby would see the float bob and think, “Oh boy! A big fish!” and grab the pole, trying to reel it in. And there would be a tug of war between the accidental fisherman and the clubhouse until finally Buster and friends would come running over, laughing. They would tell the secret of the Clown Pole and award a medal to the poor fool who tried to beat it.
FIT IN
WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Can you fit the names of Buster’s friends & family across the grid? If you get it right you’ll spell out someone very important reading downward in the starred squares. We’ve put in a few letters already to help you!
Evie Joubinaux, aged 9, recreates a scene from both ‘The Genrel’ (sic) & ‘The Navigator’; Buster pets the little cannon which is now on the back of the train! Inventive!

Margo Bullock, aged just 8, has come up with a digital portrait of our Buster - there’s a ghost of a smile on that stone face. Well done!

We want to see your art, your photos, anything to show you’re a Damfino. Tell us how you became a fan of Buster’s work, write a review, we’d love to hear from you - send submissions for ‘The Play House’ to socialmedia@busterkeaton.org