

Friday, February 12, 2010 at 6 pm

**Friday Night
Silent Film Festival:
The Last Command
Directed by Josef Von Sternberg**

Josef von Sternberg is one of the great filmmakers in the history of the cinema. He is credited with creating the screen persona of the internationally-acclaimed actress Marlene Dietrich in such classic films as *The Blue Angel*, *Morocco* and *Shanghai Express*. He won the Academy Award for Best Director for *Morocco* and *Shanghai Express*.

His silent film, *The Last Command*, is one of the great films of its era. The actor Emil Jennings won the first ever Academy Award for Best Actor for his starring role in the film. He plays a down-and-out character actor in Hollywood who once had been the head of the Russian Czar's Imperial Army. A Soviet filmmaker has come to Hollywood to make a movie about the Russian Revolution and discovers the former high-ranking officer picture in the head-shots of actors he is reviewing for parts in the film. He immediately recognizes the former officer --and casts him as himself in the film-within-a film.

It is a tale of revolution, patriotism, love and betrayal that presents us with complex characters and offers no pat, easy solutions. It is also one of the best movies about the Hollywood system of making movies. Von Sternberg's creation of a film-within-a-film is brilliant.

We hope you can join us for an exciting movie and great conversation afterwards--all with free pizza!