

**PRESS RELEASE**

**“The Kid: The Exhibition” – An exclusive exhibition uncovers  
the origins of Charlie Chaplin’s childlike worldview**

Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland, 15 February 2022 – From 18 March to 25 September 2022, Chaplin’s World, the only museum in the world dedicated to Charlie Chaplin, will pay homage to the artist’s first feature-length work, “The Kid.” Lauded by the British Film Institute as one of the Top 50 films to watch before turning fifteen, it is possibly the most autobiographical work in Chaplin’s canon, a masterful blend of laughter and compassion that mirrors his childhood. Created especially for Chaplin’s World by Yves Durand, the Museum’s concept designer, “The Kid: The Exhibition” will be produced by the Charlie Chaplin Museum Foundation. Through the lens of Chaplin’s own childhood, it will give kids and adults alike a chance to discover his inspiring life journey, from London slums to worldwide fame. “The Kid: The Exhibition” is a fun, immersive exhibition for people of all ages!

**“THE KID” – A TESTAMENT TO CHAPLIN’S RESILIENCE**

*“A picture with a smile – and perhaps, a tear.”*

Over a century after its release, “The Kid” still resonates as Chaplin’s heartfelt outcry against living conditions for orphaned children and illustrates humankind’s ability to triumph over adversity. Released in 1921, “The Kid” was a revolutionary work, Chaplin’s first six-reeler (4,900 ft), and his first big success with a socially conscious script that struck a fine balance of comedy and tragedy, in sharp contrast to other early 20<sup>th</sup>-century works of cinema. The artist’s troubled period during the film’s creation further emphasizes its importance in his body of work (shortly before production was due to start, he lost his first-born child, who was aged just three days).

Taking inspiration from this personal history would pay off: Charlie Chaplin soared to success upon the film’s release, in the US and then across the world. “The Kid” serves as a reminder that our hardships can be turned into strength to achieve our dreams.

**AN EXHIBITION THAT UNCOVERS THE SECRETS BEHIND THE FILM**

“The Kid: The Exhibition” starts with a deep dive into late-19<sup>th</sup>-century London, presenting a number of letters penned by Charlie’s mother, Hannah – who had been admitted to a mental hospital at the time – and by his brother, Sydney. Rarely, if ever, seen before, these archive documents are accompanied by quotes from Chaplin and provide a glimpse into the film’s inception – that is, Charlie’s own childhood. To unearth the secrets of “The Kid,” we must first delve into Chaplin’s very early years. The first part of the temporary exhibition unveils the various facets of his childhood, which would go on to influence the majority of his works, from his scripts to the creation of the Tramp. The immersive journey also highlights Charlie Chaplin’s rise to global fame, from a penniless youngster to the embodiment of the American dream.



**PRESS RELEASE**

**GAME OF MIRRORS – THE TRAMP AND THE KID / CHARLIE CHAPLIN AND JACKIE COOGAN**

This tribute to “The Kid” also sheds light on the incredible life story of Jackie Coogan, who played the film’s titular role, exploring the interplay between the mirroring characters of the Tramp and the Kid, and between Chaplin’s and Coogan’s own lives. The section on Coogan recounts the journey of the child star, from wealth and fame to poverty, exploring the lawsuit he filed against his fortune-squandering parents, which resulted in the passing of the Coogan Act.

In the Kid, Chaplin created an alter ego of both the young Charlie and the Tramp. The raggedy little boy in a lopsided newsboy cap and tattered shoes mimics the Tramp’s every expression. Like Charlie, the plucky child who refuses to grow up must learn to fend for himself as he takes on the whole world. Because, as the exhibition implies, Chaplin is the Kid, the Tramp is the Kid, and the Kid is the Tramp, in a game of mirrors that transcends fiction, just like the film.

**YVES DURAND – A UNIQUE CURATOR**

For over twenty years, Yves Durand has been committed to conceptualizing and developing museum projects around the world. Primarily active in Canada and Switzerland in recent years, Durand played an instrumental role in the creation of Chaplin’s World, which was voted Best Museum in Europe in 2018. Durand has numerous other museum and multimedia concepts under his belt, many of which were designed as turn-key projects in the art, history, archaeology and science sectors, in American, Europe, and Asia.

**THE KIDS – FROM JACKIE COOGAN TO MICHAEL CHAPLIN**

Rounding off this trip into the world of “The Kid,” the temporary exhibition features a filmed interview with Michael Chaplin, one of Charlie Chaplin’s sons. This personal video account gives visitors the chance to discover Chaplin through the eyes of his own son, who shares anecdotes from the production of “A King in New York,” which was written at Manoir de Ban and starred Michael Chaplin in a supporting role. During the shooting, Charlie Chaplin thus took on the dual role of director and father!

**AN EXHIBITION FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES**

“The Kid: The Exhibition” is devised in much the same way as the film itself, taking visitors on an inspirational, emotional journey, with plenty of fun and laughter along the way. It celebrates a cinematic work full of charm from a bygone era. In this spirit, visitors will experience the magic of classic games rooted in Chaplin’s childhood memories!

The exhibition will also show little ones how children their age lived at the time, and the kinds of activities that filled their eyes with wonder; the Musée suisse de l’appareil photographique / Swiss Photography Museum will be presenting a selection of its most exceptional magic lanterns, a unique opportunity to discover the wonder of turn-of-the-century visual entertainment; and a screening room styled like an early cinema theatre will transport children into the visual atmosphere of a bygone era. All of the exhibition’s videos and projections have been curated in partnership with Lobster Films, a world leader in film restoration, and offer a mix of scientific insight and wondrous delight around the themes explored in “The Kid.”



**PRESS RELEASE**

**CHAPLIN'S WORLD  
2022 SEASON**

**"THE KID: THE EXHIBITION", FROM 18 MARCH TO 25 SEPTEMBER 2022**

The temporary exhibition, which will have its world premiere at Chaplin's World, will take visitors of all ages on a journey of laughter and emotion, as they delve into the world of "The Kid." Produced by the Charlie Chaplin Museum Foundation, it will celebrate Chaplin through the lens of (his) childhood and resilience, following his incredible journey from alleyway vagabond in London to world celebrity.

**THE KID: SCREENINGS**

To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "The Kid," the Charlie Chaplin Museum Foundation will invite you to (re)discover this masterpiece at Chaplin's World.

**Screenings:**

23 March 2022 (with Eugene Chaplin)  
16 April 2022 (with Eugene Chaplin)  
19 and 26 April 2022 (as part of the Chaplin Circus Show)

Reservation required. Please visit [chaplinsworld.com](http://chaplinsworld.com)

**FROM 15 APRIL TO 1 MAY 2021 – CHAPLIN CIRCUS SHOW**

The circus is coming to Chaplin's World!  
Pitched proudly in the Museum park, the Alchimie Circus School big top will play host to three shows each day (excluding Tuesdays), featuring clever nods to "The Kid". A number of activities inspired by this iconic film will create unforgettable memories for visitors of all ages!

**YOUNG MUSICIANS WILL MAKE THEIR PASSION HEARD  
AT CHAPLIN'S WORLD!**

As part of World Music Day, Chaplin's World will invite students of the Montreux-Vevey-Riviera Music Academy to share their passion at Chaplin's final home. These young musicians will be performing open mic sets throughout World Music Day weekend, on 18 and 19 June 2022.



## PRESS RELEASE

### OUR PARTNERS



Set up over twenty years ago as a non-profit organization, the **Charlie Chaplin Museum Foundation** helped design Chaplin's World, a museum that chronicles the artist's life and work, right where he lived, at Manoir de Ban in Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland. The Charlie Chaplin Museum Foundation is dedicated to promoting the development and evolution of Chaplin's World through a range of cultural activities, and upholding Chaplin's humanist values by organizing and participating in all charity, social, humanitarian, artistic, and cultural activities connected with Chaplin, in Switzerland and around the world.



**Groupe E** is an energy supplier and a trusted reference in its field. It is committed to the energy transition, offering solutions that are sustainable, smart, and comprehensive. With over a century of expertise in energy, the firm fosters a spirit of innovation that is similar to Charlie Chaplin's, a pioneer of his time. Chaplin's World and Groupe E share the values of openness, sustainability, and respect. Both seek to make this unique site a benchmark in energy.



By organizing projects related to exercise, nutrition, play, reading and culture, the **Ducret Foundation** helps vulnerable children and young people (and their families) to thrive. As part of its cultural program, the Foundation wanted to honour Chaplin's World as a jewel of the Swiss Riviera, the region that was once home to our founder, Pierre-Henri Ducret.



Launched in 1985, **Lobster Films** are a team of individuals united by a passion for restoring films and sharing the discovery and passion of cinema, from the birth of film through to the current day. A one-of-a-kind cinema library, rare film archive (from Georges Méliès to the RKO collection, from Jacques Prévert to Nelly Kaplan), restoration laboratory, recording studio, production and DVD publishing company, concert film organizer and more, Lobster supports all endeavours to share and promote the lost treasures of cinema.



MUSEE SUISSE  
DE L'APPAREIL  
PHOTOGRAPHIQUE  
VEVEY



Open to the public since 1979, the **Swiss Camera Museum / Vevey** works to preserve historical photography techniques and practices through objects, instruments, products, processes, and supplies related to the medium, as well as photographs, documents, publications, and illustrations. It safeguards this heritage and passes the knowledge on to as many people as possible through exhibitions, presentations, research, and publications. Particular emphasis is placed on Swiss productions or works linked to the history of photography in Switzerland.

Each year, the **International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH)** holds a ten-day event of films and debates that focuses on worldwide struggles to protect human rights. It gives voice to filmmakers, artists, activists, and actors in the field who fight daily for their rights and ours, and casts light on their causes.



**The Chaplin Office** is the sole representative of the Charlie Chaplin rights holding companies. It also manages the Chaplin archives and approves projects related to the artist's life and work.

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#CHAPLINANDTHEKID

