



## The toll gate ; His bitter pill /

Western films

Silent films

Feature films

Short films

Fiction films

Material Projectable

Here is William S. Hart, brightest star of the early western screen, in the film he thought his best. As a 1920 reviewer wrote, "He represents the combined daring and cunning of the American fighting male. He not only looks the part, but he acts it with keen intelligence. There constantly shines in his eyes the combined pugnacity and caution of the true gunman of the West." Hart plays Black Deering, an outlaw who, in his own words, "ain't never been any good." He and his gang are ambushed during a daring train robbery, and he later learns his betrayer was one of his own men: Jordan, who used his blood money to buy a frontier parlor of gambling and prostitution. Escaping from the law, Deering flees into the wilderness and finds shelter in the home of an abandoned woman (Anna Q. Nilsson) and her young son. The vengeful gunfighter finds the possibility of redemption, warns an outpost of an impending Indian attack, and even saves the small child's life; but this happiness is short-lived when two posses - one led by the treacherous Jordan, the other by a local sheriff - converge upon the isolated cabin. Although Hart was born in Newburgh, New York, some of his early years were spent on the frontier where he learned to speak Sioux and Indian sign language. As one critic wrote, "His genuine love for the West and his memory of real cowboys and Indians he had known in his youth were to set his films apart from any other films of the genre before or after." He found absurd the conventionalized Westerns made by others and set about to dramatize the real frontier code and illustrate it in authentic detail. By the time Hart formed his own production company for which *The Toll Gate* was his first endeavor, his westerns had brought him world fame and film earnings surpassed only by Charlie Chaplin and Mary Pickford. Hart's influence even extends to later films of both John Wayne and Clint Eastwood. *The Toll Gate* is digitally mastered from a rare tinted-and-toned original print (which suffers from deterioration in the final reel) and backed by an effective and flavorful music score by Eric Beheim from period arrangements

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**Título:** The toll gate His bitter pill produced for video by David Shepard

**Editorial:** Los Angeles, CA Flicker Alley 1999

**Descripción física:** 1 online resource (93 minutes)

**Duración:** 013305

**Nota general:** Title from resource description page (viewed December 11, 2017)

**Contenido:** The toll gate (1920) / Samuel Bischoff presents ; An Artcraft picture ; directed by Lambert Hillyer -- His bitter pill (1916) / directed by Fred Fishbeck ; supervised by Mac Sennett ; [distributed by Artcraft]

**Intérpretes:** William S. Hart, Anna Q. Nilsson, Joseph Singleton, Jack Richardson, Richard Headrick, Mack Swain, Louella Maxam, Ella Haines, Edgar Kennedy

**Lengua:** Silent movie, English subtitles with musical sound accompaniment

**Materia:** Outlaws- Drama Man-woman relationships- Drama

**Entidades:** Flicker Alley (Firm) distributor

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