George Minter
presents
Charles Dickens' Joyful Masterpiece

THE PICKWICK PAPERS

Being the Hilarious Adventures of That Fabulous Organization, "The Pickwick Club"

starring

JAMES HAYTER  NIGEL PATRICK
JAMES DONALD  JOYCE GRENFELL
HERMIONE GINGOLD  HERMIONE BADELEY
DONALD WOLFIT  HARRY FOWLER
KATHLEEN HARRISON

Written for the Screen and Directed by Noel Langley
A Langley-Minter Production
Music Composed and Conducted by Antony Hopkins
A Renown Pictures Release
Distributed by Arthur Mayer-Edward Kingsley Inc.

Running Time: 109 Minutes

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THE PLAYERS

MR. PICKWICK .................. JAMES HAYTER
MR. WINKLE .................... JAMES DONALD
MR. TUFMAN .................... ALEXANDER GAUGE
MR. SHODGRASS ................. LIONEL MURTON
MR. JINGLE ..................... NIGEL PATRICK
RACHEL WARDLE ................ KATHLEEN HARRISON
MRS. LEO HUNTER .............. JOYCE GRENFELL
MISS TOOKINS ................ HERMIONE GINGOLD
Sergeant Buzfuz .............. DONALD WOLFIT
MRS. BARDELL ................ HERMIONE BADELEY
SAM WELLER ................... HARRY FOWLER
EMILY WARDLE ................ DIANE HART
ISABEL WARDLE ................. JOAN HEAL
THE IRATE CABMAN ............ WILLIAM HARTNELL
MISS WITHFIELD ............... ATHENE SEYLER
JOB TROTTER ................. SAM COSTA
TONY WELDER ................. GEORGE ROBEY
THE FAT BOY ................. GEORGE CAMPION
MR. WARDLE .................... WILLIAM FITZGERALD
GRANDMA WARDLE .............. MARY MERRALL
SURGEON ....................... RAYMOND LOVELL
MR. JUSTICE STARELEIGH ...... CECIL TROUNGER
MR. DODSON ................. D.A. CLARK-SMITH
MR. FOGG ...................... JUNE THORBURN
ARABELLA ...................... ALAN WHEATLEY
DR. SLAMMER .................. FELIX FELTON
DR. SLAMMER'S AIDE .......... MAX ADRIAN
DR. SLAMMER'S DANCING PARTNER Dandy Nicholls
MR. SNUBBINS ................. BARRY MACKAY
Synopsis

Mr. Samuel Pickwick, Founder and Chairman of the world-famous "Pickwick Club," a small, select organization of well-to-do bachelors, proposes that he and three other Club members -- the sporting Mr. Winkle, the poet Mr. Snodgrass, and the romantic Mr. Tupman -- should make a tour of Britain with a view to widening their sphere of knowledge. At the Club meeting the proposal is greeted with acclamation, and, next morning, Mr. Pickwick leaves his lodgings at the house of Mrs. Bardell en route for The Golden Cross Hotel, in the Strand, where he is to meet his three companions and take coach to Rochester. When Mr. Pickwick, true to his upbringing, asks questions the cabman about the age of his horse, the cabman, on arrival at The Golden Cross, denounces Mr. Pickwick as an informer and challenges him to a fight.

Mr. Pickwick, Winkle, Snodgrass and Tupman are soon surrounded by a hostile crowd from which they are rescued by the jaunty, self-possessed Jingle, a penniless strolling actor who lives by his wits. Jingle, the opportunist, perceiving that the wealthy but gullible Pickwicksians are fair game for exploitation, informs them that he too is traveling to Rochester. The Pickwicksians invite him to join their party.

At the Bull Inn, Rochester, strains of music from above announce the beginning of a County Ball. The lady-loving Tupman would dearly like to go. Jingle offers to accompany him, but says his luggage has gone rather and he has nothing to wear. The others, having dined well, are dozing over their wine when Tupman arranges to borrow, without permission, Winkle's new blue coat with the Club buttons, and lend it to Jingle.

In the ballroom, Jingle, slightly tipsy, dares to snatch his pretty partner from under the nose of the portly, peppy Dr. Slammer "of the 97th Regiment, sir." The outraged Slammer demands satisfaction and presents Jingle with his card. But Jingle refuses to take him seriously.

Next morning Slammer sends his aide to seek out the insulting gentleman with the new blue coat and the new Club buttons. It is, of course, the innocent, timid Winkle who receives Slammer's challenge to a duel with pistols. Although bewildered by it all, Winkle feels honor-bound to accept the challenge, but, during the duel, it becomes apparent to Slammer that he is fighting the wrong man. He apologizes to Winkle, and all return to the inn together, the best of friends. But the inn they find the rakishly Jingle gambling at cards with Tupman and Snodgrass. To the sight of Jingle the fiery Slammer flies into a rage and accuses Mr. Pickwick of associating with low characters. Tupman's conduct in "borrowing" Winkle's coat sets the Pickwicksians quarrelling. In the uproar Jingle slips quietly away.
Next day, with harmony restored, the Pickwickians, in response to an invitation from Mr. Wardle, set off for Dingley Dell. But on the way the horses bolt, and they are forced to continue their journey on foot.

At Dingley Dell Mr. Wardle presents his large family. Tupman is immediately attracted to Rachael, Wardle's middle-aged sister. Winkle becomes escort to the flirty Emily, while Snodgrass shepherds Isabella, Wardle’s two daughters. Jingle, who happens to be visiting the district, contrives to be invited to Dingley Dell. On learning of her “financial expectations,” Jingle decides to become Tupman’s rival for Rachael’s hand.

To Allay Tupman’s suspicions, however, he tells that gentleman to pay no attention to his behavior with Rachael. He is doing it only to draw her brother’s attention away from Tupman’s love for her of which he would not approve. The guileless Tupman is so grateful that he lends the indigent Jingle ten pounds! But he does not bargain for Jingle carrying the deep spirit so far as to elope with Rachael — and on his ten pounds, too.

Mr. Pickwick, and an infuriated Wardle, in hot pursuit of the eloping pair, catch up with them at the White Hart Hotel, Southwark. Here, assisted by the boots, Sam Weller, Jingle is discovered and paid off from his intention of marrying Rachael. As a reward for his help, Mr. Pickwick takes Sam Weller into his service. In giving this news to his landlady, Mrs. Bardell, Mr. Pickwick bungles badly. Mrs. Bardell, taking his suggestion that “two can live almost as quickly as one” as a proposal of marriage, faints away into his arms with pleasure.

Meantime, an invitation to Mrs. Leo Hunter’s Fancy Dress Garden Party has arrived. Having recited her “Ode to an Expiring Frog,” the garrulous Mrs. Hunter, at the Party, introduces Mr. Pickwick to one of her distinguished guests. This “distinguished” guest turns out to be the intolerable Jingle, who quickly makes his escape. Mr. Pickwick is left to be presented to Mr. and Mrs. Nupkins, a local magistrate and his wife, and their pretty ward, Arabella Allen. Mr. Winkle’s heart turns over with a thump. He falls in love with Arabella on sight.

Mr. Pickwick follows Jingle to The Angel, where the faithful Sam Weller scours acquaintance with an unkempt individual, Job Trotter, who is in fact Jingle’s servant. Trotter reveals to Sam that Jingle is planning to elope with a pretty young pupil at the local Seminary for Young Ladies.

Mr. Pickwick is aghast at this news. He wants to warn the headmistress, but Trotter is against this. Why not lurk in the school grounds and catch Jingle red-handed? But the plot goes awry again, and Mr. Pickwick finds himself set upon by a pack of terrified schoolgirls, led by their formidable headmistress, Miss Tomkins, who sends for Mr. Nupkins, the magistrate. Mr. Nupkins, recognizing Mr. Pickwick, vouches for him, and honor is saved. Returning to his hotel, Mr. Pickwick mistakes his bedroom and finds himself sharing it with a middle-aged lady in yellow curlpapers, Miss Withersfield. He retires as gracefully as he can.

Next morning, Nupkins calls at The Angel to hear Mr. Pickwick’s explanations for his previous night’s conduct at the Seminary. Jingle appears unexpectedly, but carries off the situation with his usual cunning. Mr. Pickwick is disbelieved and the situation is further complicated by the appearance of a Mr. Justice Stareleigh and Miss Withersfield. The latter almost faints at the sight of Mr. Pickwick. What with having been found in a young lady's school and a middle-aged lady’s bedroom, all in one evening, Mr. Pickwick finds himself thoroughly in disgrace.

Returning to London, Mr. Pickwick meets with a further shock. He is served with a writ claiming damages for breach of promise of marriage. The claimant is Mrs. Bardell, his landlady, who has been persuaded to take this action by a pair of crooked lawyers, Dodson and Fogg. In the court action which follows, the
redoubtable Sergeant Buntus thunders out an eloquent eae for his client. Damages and costs are awarded against Mr. Pickwick. Refusing to pay, Mr. Pickwick is committed to the notorious Fleet Prison, where he is joined by the faithful Sam Weller. In the prison they encounter Jingle, who has been committed for his many debts.

Meantime, Dodson and Fogg, unable to obtain their costs from either Mr. Pickwick or Mrs. Bardell, have the latter also sent to the Fleet. When Mr. Pickwick is prevailed upon by his lawyer, Farker, to pay the costs out of pitty for Mrs. Bardell's wretched state, all are released, including Jingle, who is given enough money to satisfy his life's ambition to settle in Jamaica. All's well that ends well, and Mr. Pickwick's adventures conclude with a joyful Christmas wedding celebration over which he presides at Dingley Dell.

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WHO'S WHO

JAMES HAYTER (Mr. Pickwick)

Mr. Hayter was born in India, and educated at the Dollar Academy in Scotland. He studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, and after service in World War I, made his theatrical debut in 1933. His film career has found him playing such roles as the Younger in Somerset Maugham's "Trio," Old Thomas in "Tom Brown's Schooldays," and Friar Tuck in "Robin Hood and His Merry Men." A "natural" choice for his present role, he was selected for the part of Mr. Pickwick by George Hutter and Noel Langley when they were first planning the film. Hayter is the proud father of five children.

NIGEL PATRICK (Jingle)

Born in London, Mr. Patrick first studied to become an accountant. But acting always fascinated him, and he made his theatrical debut in "The Life Machine" in 1936. At the outbreak of World War II he joined the King's Royal Rifle Corps, rising to the rank of Lt.-Colonel. He made his film debut as a "spit" in "Spring in Park Lane," and has since appeared in such films as "Nurse," "The Browning Version," "Pandora and the Flying Dutchman," "Morning Departure," "Trio," "Encore" and "The Sound Barrier."

JAMES DONALD (Mr. Winkle)

Mr. Donald was born in Aberdeen. He made his film debut in Noel Coward's "In Which We Serve," and has since been seen on the screen in "San Demetrio London," "The Way Ahead," "The Small Voice," "Trotti True" and "Brandy for the Parson." He made one of his biggest stage hits with Eileen Herlie in "The Eagle Has Two Heads."

JOYCE GRENFEIL (Mrs. Lee Hunter)


HERMIONE GINGOLD (Miss Tomkins)

Miss Gingold made her London stage debut at the age of eleven. Three wartime revues brought her huge success on the London stage: "Sweet and Lou," "Sweeter and Lower," and "Sweetest and Lowest." Her recent book, "My Own Unsaid Work," was a best-seller. She is currently appearing on Broadway in "John Murray Anderson's Almanac."
HERMIONE BADDELEY (Mrs. Bardell)

Born in Broseley, Shropshire, Miss Baddeley studied to be a dancer, making her first appearance on the London stage in 1928. In recent years she has branched out in intimate revues in London's West End. She made her film debut in "It Always Rains on Sunday," has since appeared in "Brighton Rock," "No Room at the Inn," "Quarter," and "Passport to Pimlico." Her two previous films for George Minter were "Tom Brown's Schooldays" and "Scrooge."" 

DONALD WOLFIT (Sergeant Buxton)

One of England's most distinguished actor-managers, Mr. Wolfit has appeared in hundreds of plays since making his first stage appearance in "The Taming of the Shrew," and a few years ago toured the United States and Canada with his Shakespearean company. He made his screen debut in "Death at Broadcasting House," and his subsequent films have included "Drake of England," "The Guv'nor," and "Hyde Park Corner."

HARRY FOWLER (Sam Weller)

Mr. Fowler began life selling newspapers in Fleet Street. His first film was "Those Kids from Town," and he has since appeared in more than fifty pictures in ten years, including "Went the Day Well?," "Champagne Charlie," "She Shall Have Murder," "Hue and Cry" and "I Believe in You."

KATHLEEN HARRISON (Rachael Wardle)

Miss Harrison studied for two years at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, and made her film debut in "Hobson's Choice." She has since appeared in such outstanding films as "Bank Holiday," "Major Barbara," "In Which We Serve" and "Scrooge." She has appeared on the London stage in "Flare Path," "The Winslow Boy," and "Waters of the Moon."

THE TECHNICIANS

Associate Producer .................. Bob McNaught
Director of Photography ............ Wilkie Cooper
Art Director ........................ Fred Pusey
Costume Designer .................. Beatrice Dawson
Dance Arranger .................... Suria Magito
The following is a comprehensive list of the best-known motion pictures made from the works of Charles Dickens:

**"OLIVER Twist"**

First film version - Paramount, 1916
Remade by First National in 1922, with Jackie Coogan, Lon Chaney
First talking version - Monogram, 1933
Remade by J. Arthur Rank, 1951, with Alec Guinness

**"NICHOLAS NICKLEBY"**

Only film version, J. Arthur Rank-Ealing, 1951

**"DOMBEY AND SON"**

First film version - Triangle, 1919, directed by D.W. Griffith
Remade by Paramount in 1931 as "Rich Man's Folly"

**"THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP"**

First film version made by Griffith as one-reeler, Biograph, 1912
Made in England in 1935, as an independent production. This is the longest Dickens film, running approximately 11,000 feet.

**"DAVID COPPERFIELD"**

First made by Associated Exhibitors in the early 20's.
Made as all-star talking picture by M-G-M in 1935, with W.C. Fields, Freddie Bartholomew, etc.

**"A TALE OF TWO CITIES"**

First film version, Vitagraph, 1911, with Maurice Costello.
Remade by Fox in 1917, with William Farnum.
Remade by U.A. in 1928, under the title, "The Only Way."
Remade by M-G-M in 1935, with Ronald Colman.

**"GREAT EXPECTATIONS"**

First film version - Paramount, 1917.
Remade by Universal in 1934.
Remade 1950 by David Lean for J. Arthur Rank.

**"THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD"**

Made by Universal in 1935, with Claude Rains.

**"OUR MUTUAL FRIEND"**

Made by F.B.O. in 1921

**"A CHRISTMAS CAROL"**

Made by Paramount in 1920 and again in 1925.
First talkie version made in England in 1934.
Remade by M-G-M in 1938.
Remade for Renown Pictures (as "Scrooge") by George Minter, 1951.

**"THE PICKWICK PAPERS"**

First filmed in 1909 by Edison, as "Pickwick's Predicament"; a one-reel film dealing with the trial and prison sequences, and starring Marc McDermott as Mr. Pickwick.

In 1912 Vitagraph made a three-reel version on location in England, starring John Bunny as Mr. Pickwick.

This present production is the first full-length feature film that has ever been made of "THE PICKWICK PAPERS."