

## The Emotions of Prohibition

&RPPXQLFDWLRQ LV RQH RI WKH PRVW LPSRUWDQW WK

speaking or singing comes to mind first EHFDXVH WKH\ DUH ZKDW ZH FDQ SK

FRPPXQLFDWLRQ LV QRW YHUEDO VRPHWLPHV WKH PRVW S

through actions or movements. The power of sight can be even more influential than the ear or

mind because wo

mentality × \$ O L F-H \* X \





drunk. Now we are struck by the dramatic change in the eye expression of ~~her~~ Mary

daughter x(P P HLU RQFH EHDXLIXO FKDUJHG H\HV QRZ GUR

This film begins in the Moosehead Saloon, Charlie Butcher, the owner of the saloon, and Joe Morgan, the local drunkard begin the film, to his wife, Claudia and his daughter, Louisa. Charlie, however, is still trying to persuade Joe to give up drinking rum. He fixates on the man he will hit. He thus misses the sight of his daughter in the corner of the saloon. As the film progresses, Joe's behavior becomes increasingly erratic. He is seen drinking rum and it is never said if Louisa lives or not, it seems likely that Joe never notices a sip of rum.

Touching and hand motion also communicate emotional states. For example, when one is

/RXLV 'x+H KDG VXIIHUG IURP DnQftLnOwQnHvpeDwntDro HDUO\  
WKDWxUHTXLUHG WKH DLG RI D FUXWFK /RXLV KRZHYHU C  
DVxKDUG DV KH FDQ VHOOLQJ QHZVSDSHUV He needs the money so t  
ill mother, +HQUlmpWV FxQ SXUFKDVH IRRG (YHQ WKRXJK 0U &D  
KDQG RYHU DQ\ PRQH\ WR KHOS VXSSRUW KLV IDPLO\ +H D  
ORFDO %H DU &DYH 6DORRQ ,W GRHV QRW PDW We put KRZ PD  
EHFDXVH /RXLV ZLOO VWLOO WU\ WR VXSSRUW KLP QR PDW  
EHWWHU :KHQ /RXLV LV RQ WKH VWUHHWxVHOOLQJ KLV GD

him too much money for his paper. Louis runs a

with the intent of stealing their hard DUQHG PRQH\ 0U &DPSEHOO LV QRV  
EHFDXVH EHIRUH KH FRXOG PDNH KLV HVFDSH KH LV FDXJKV  
and grab violently EXW RQFH 0U &DPSEHOO DSSHUV WR EH JHWW  
URDUV WKURXJK WKH DLU KLWWLQJ &DPSEHOO LQ WKH EDF  
settled, the Harringtons GHFLGH WKDW WKH\ ZLOO R family Ls De Ca DGRSW  
finally have the security that comes with a loving family.

Touch and its associated emotions are used in both positive and negative ways in this film.  
)RU H[DPSOH ZKHQ 0U x+DUULQJWRQ PHWV the ReasVing RU WKH  
WRXFK WKDW KH JLYHV LVxPRYLQJ %XW ZKHQ 0U &DPSE  
+DUULQJWRQ WKLW ZDVxFHUWDLQO\ QHLWKHU FDULQJ LQ  
GHVWUXFWLRQ :KLOHx3HW is Way&DifEeh aTe Qreasing the FeatQ JHG  
RI KLV ZLIH DQG WKHxORVV RI KLV RQO\ FKLOG LW VWLOO  
DOFRKRO xx

The cultivation of personal appearance can be a great indicator of emotional stability  
DQG xR Qe's state This is the film "The Son's Return" by ' : x\*UL is a Wnk example



SDUHQWV WKH QHZV RI KLV GHSDUWXUH WKH\ DUH×XQGHU  
DQG KRZ SDVVLRQDWHO\ ~~Beaver's support is far~~ W×WKHP WKH

Wesley did not guess that his departure would lead to very hard times for his family. These  
KDUG WLPHV DOO EHJLQ ZKHQ 0U ×%HDYHUWRQ SLFNs up that fi  
:KLOH :HVOH\ LV LQ WKH FLW\ HDUQLQJ×D JUHDW GHDO RI  
\$IWHU EHLQJ DZD\ IRU ILYH \HDUV ×:HVOH\ UHFHLYHV D OHV  
preGLFDPHQW 6LQFH KH KDV FKDQJHG×VR PFK RYHU WKH  
DWWLUH :HVOH\ GHFLGHV WKDW KH ZLOO WU\ WR VXUSULV  
was correct when he thought they would not recognize him. But hiD WKHU×GRHV QRWLF  
bag he was carrying. So, his now haggard, and unkempt parents devise a plan to sneak into

:HVOH\¶V×URRP DQG WDNH WKH PRQH\ ZKLOH KH LV DVOH  
ZDNLQJ XS×GXULQJ WKH ~~They wake up to see M.H. Beaver in a~~ ~~to a~~ ~~in~~  
WKH KHDG ×UHQQGHULQJ KLP XQFRQVFLRXV 7KLQNLQJ WKDV  
VKHHWV×DQG KLGH :HVOH\¶V ERG\ LQ WKH ZRRGV :KHQ KLV  
WKH\×ILQG ~~Card~~ ~~in~~ ~~his~~ ~~belongings~~. They find their son's locket which contains a picture

RI×KLV GHDU PRWKHU +RUULILHG ZLWK WKHLU DFWLRQV W

Once they arrive, however, Wesley is gone. Violet found his body while she was taking  
KHU GDLO\×ZDON WKURXJK WKH ZRRGV E\ KHU KR XVH DQG  
6KH×LPPHGLDWHO\ UXQV WR JHW KHU EURWKHUV 5DOIH  
2QFH×:HVOH\ LV UHVWLQJ FR, ~~The~~ ~~Quinn~~ ~~Die~~ ~~Beaver~~ ~~Parents~~ ~~See~~ ~~De~~  
WKURXJK×WKH GRRU UDYLQJ DERXW KR ~~This~~ ~~Milk~~ ~~Has~~ ~~Ma~~ ~~Q~~ ~~OHG~~ ~~WH~~  
GLVSOD\ V RI×YDU\LQJ SK\VLFDO DSSHDUDQFH LQ ERWK :HV  
ZRUH KLV ROGT ~~that~~ ~~Chap~~ ~~Q~~ ~~when~~ ~~De~~ ~~W~~ began his new job and started earning money.





PRYHPHQWV RQH FDQ LQWHUSUHW PDQ\ GLIIHUHQW HPRWLRQ

The nose is used for much more than simply detecting smells. It can also be used to

VKRZxGLVJXVW RU GLVSOHDVXUH DERXW D VLWXDWLRQ DQG

The %URNHQ\ the characters display displeasure on various occasions with just their noses.

7KLV ILOP xZDV B.W.R.G. with Hig 1909 and he used several methods of

QRQYHUEDO xFRPPXQLFDWLRQ It was off by showing two good friends, I I H F W I

5LFKNDMIG and Jack Williams, staggering home drunkenly from Baker Saloon. During

WKHLU x V may x night, they were past Evelyn Mitch house. Richard and Evelyn have

EHHQ xFRXUWLQJ IRU D IHZ PRQWKV DQG VKH KDV EHHQ VV

VHHLQJ xKLP GUXQN DJDLQ VKH TXLFNO\ UXQV Del WHU KLP

+RZHYHU xDIWHU FKDVLQJ 5LFKDUG LQ WKH DIWHUQRRQ KH

Her nose crinkles and she falls on the road next to Richard and his friend. Thinking that she was

VLPSO\ EHLQJ xHPRWLRQDO On his way to the car back for Evelyn. Once GV - D

VKH KDV xUHFRYHUHG VKH EHJV 5LFKDUG WR KHDG KRPH D

7KH QH[W GD\ 5LFKDUG xJRHV WR FDOO RQ (YHO\Q DW KH

WR JHW ULFK + would be going on to the kid for two weeks to work and once he

UHWXUQV WKH\ ZLOO JHW xPDUULHG ,Q KHU VRUURZ (YHO

IRU OXFN ZKLOH KH LV xDZD\ 2QFH Garri Bod Peters, who was all WKH FL

NQRZQ IRU EHLQJ xFORVH WR PDQ\ VXFFHVVIXO EXVLQHVVPH

0U 3HWHUV ↑ xIULHQG KH LV XQDZDUH WKDW KLV ,OLIH ZLOO

a well NQRZQ xVDO MR. Goor Requests that Richard meet him at his saloon, the Silver

Horse, to talk about business opportunities. %HIRUH WKH xPHHWLQJ 5LFKDUG

KDYH RQO\ RQH GULQN WR HDVH KOL, how ever, has not Dep. As Mr WKLV x

Richard. +H LQVLVWV WKDW 5LFKDUG FRPSOHWH W601sU x EXVL  
crinkled, shaking nose indicates that the saloonkeeper will not take no for an answer.

:KLOH 5LFKDUG LV God, he's not a Scatler. Ed is a singer who  
performs at the Silver Horse5 LFKDUG LV xLPPHGLDWHO\ DWWUDFWHG WF  
ORRNV WR KLV GHDU (YHO\Q :KLOH 5LFKDUG xLV LQ WKH F  
LV H[SHULHQFLQJ PRUH HSLV Evesa letter from] Scatler trailing her  
FORVH UHODWLRQV KLS ZLWK 5LFKDUG x(YHO\Q↑V KHDOWK V  
DQG QXPURXV YLVLWV IURP WKH xORFDO GRFWRU (YHO\Q  
sight. Her nose twitches and goes crazy Evelyn tries her best to overcome her blindness.

Richard meanwhile has become a bar hound. He has lost his opportunities and is even  
WKURZQ RXW RI WKH 6LOYHU +RUVH 5LFKDUG UHWXUQV KP  
betrayed him. He stumbles by Evelyn's house just as she and her Aunt Mitch DUH xOHDYLO  
IRU D ZDON 2QFH 5LFKDUG VHHV WKDW (YHO\Q LV EOLQG  
KHU WR VXIIHU DORQH ,QVWHDG RI DSRORJL]LQJ IRU KLV S  
Evelyn until the end of her dD\ 5LFKDUG UXQV DZD\ again. In this V SURE  
tragedy, Richard and Mrs. Mitch actually were the two characters who showed their displeasure  
WKH xPRVW ZLWK WKHLU QRVHV :KHQ KH WULHV WR GLV  
RichaUG xWXUQV KLV QRVH XS WR VKRZ KLV GLVJXVW \$QG Z  
5LFKDUG xDIWHU KLV WLPH LQ WKH FLW\ VKH VKRZV KHU G  
VHHV KLP x7KLV ILOP VKRZV WKDW HYHQ ZLWKRXW ZRUGV  
GLVSOHDVXUH xMXVW E\ PRYLQJ RQH↑V QRVH x x

From today's perspective, many are tempted to regard the silent era as antiquated and boring. Without language, explosions, or screeching tires, these films seem to lack the excitement of a Hollywood thriller. But for a movement like Prohibition, that needed people to change their views, film provided the hot new medium that helped turn the nation. People of that time were new to film itself. What they were used to was talk. Body language has always been a very expressive way to get one's point across, and these films catered to a new kind of objective reality. One did not need to trust words. One needed only to watch faces, and appearances, and discover a world of seemingly true emotions, and true realities. Suddenly all the statistics, platitudes, and lectures were muted. Viewers saw righteous emotions leaping from eyes and gestures of decent people such as Lucille Byers, Beatrice Hills, Mary Bingley, Louisa Morgan, Limpy Lous, Violet Paul, Wesley Beaverton, Georgiana Pringle, and Evelyn Mitch, and they knew their cause against alcohol was just. And when Jason McMillan went to get a drink from Mr. Gooat the Silver Horse saloon, or when Wesley Beaverton stared at the faces of his degraded parents, they knew what was written. These highly emotional, silent films planted the seed that alcoholism was destroyer of humanity itself. The toxic brew needed to be banned so the world would not have to live with it.

- x
- x
- x
- x

# ( Q G Q R W H V x

1. Alice Guy- %ODFKH¶ ³: RQG HUIXO \$EVLQWKH ´ )HEUXDU\ YLGHR  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9BB +S : 8 x>
2. Fritz Kramer, "Wonderful Absinthe (1899) A Silent Film Review," March x  
<http://moviessilently.com/2017/03/12/wonderful-absinthe-1899-a-silent-film- UHYLHZ x>
3. )HUGLQDQG =HFFD ³\$OFRKRO DQG ,WV 9LFWLPV ´ 6HSWHPEHU  
[https: ZZZ \RXWXEH FRP ZDWFK"Y T729\[-I&N x](https: ZZZ \RXWXEH FRP ZDWFK)
4. Ibid, =HFFD x
5. ' : \*ULIILWK ³\$ 'UXQNDUG¶V 5HIRUPDWLRQ ´ -DQXDU\ YLGHR  
KWWSV ZZZ \RXWXEH FRP ZDWFK"Y 3U< [O)7 0x
6. Ibid, \*ULIILWK x
7. D.W. Griffith, "What Drink Did," 6HSWHPEHU YLGHR x  
KWWSV ZZZ \RXWXEH FRP ZDWFK"Y M,-3+ :27(x
8. Ibid, \*ULIILWK xx
9. :LOOLDP \$ 2¶&RQQRU ³7HQ 1LJKWV LQ D %DU 5RRP ´ \$XJXVW  
KWWSV ZZZ \RXWXEH FRP ZDWFK"Y POF'UVGP4J0x
10. Ibid, O' &RQQRU x
11. Siegmund Lubin ³\$ 'UXQNDUG¶V &KLOG ´ 2FWREHU YLGHR x  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3 1LFPV Fx>
12. Ibid, Lubin x
13. ' : \*ULIILWK ³ 7KH 6RQ¶V 5HWXUQ ´ -XO\ YLGHR x  
KWWSV ZZZ \RXWXEH FRP ZDWFK"Y SXZ)- GQ;\ x
14. Ibid, \*ULIILWK x
15. D.W. Griffith, "His Daughter," June 23, 2016, video, 13:57, KWWSV ZZZ \RXWXEH FRP ZDWFK"
16. Ibid, \*ULIILWK x
17. D.W. Griffith, "The Broken Locket," MDUFK YLGHR x  
KWWSV ZZZ \RXWXEH FRP ZDWFK"Y G'Q\*07'\*Z0Zx
18. Ibid, \*ULIILWK xx