



## **More Than a Dream: Rediscovering the Life & Films of Vilma Banky**

*-- by Rachel A. Schildgen --*

**Release Date: July 2010**

The name Vilma Banky is often relegated to dusty history books, fated to be mentioned only in passing. Today, her fame is eclipsed by the men she worked with, and her life remains a mystery to even the most ardent silent film fan. But she was a superstar, plain and simple.

Movie mogul Sam Goldwyn saw in her what millions of audiences around the world would soon embrace – the soft, milk-white hands, corn-silk hair, and effortless femininity. Charlie Chaplin was a fan, as was John Gilbert, President Calvin Coolidge, Adolf Hitler, and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

The story of Vilma Banky is almost too fantastic, but underneath it all, given fame and opportunity, she struggled to make things right. Goldwyn's long obfuscated Hungarian Rhapsody reemerges from years of misconceptions to reveal what made her such an international sensation in the '20s.

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