



A PRYOR ENGAGEMENT

Silver Streak

Set on a train from Los Angeles to Chicago, *Silver Streak* marks Pryor's first collaboration with his frequent co-star Gene Wilder. The film mixes romance, comedy, caper, and big-budget action, and set the template for a generation of genre-bending buddy movies, with Wilder and Pryor's chemistry creating the gold standard.

bfi.org.uk

The cage that trapped Richard Pryor in many of his films of the early 1980s was due in part to the unexpected popularity he stumbled into with the buddy comedy *Silver Streak* (1976), starring Gene Wilder, which in turn led to the screwball comedy *Stir Crazy* (1980, also with Wilder). Stealing the spotlight in *Silver Streak* from his co-star, Pryor mesmerised a mainstream white audience who wanted to see more of him. The problem, of course, was that Hollywood never really knew how best to harness his talent – all they knew was that he could make people laugh, without understanding the how or why of where the laughter originated. As a result, much of the audience who went to see *Stir Crazy* or *Brewster's Millions* (1985) only knew one version of him, and it was definitely not the version who recorded *That Nigger's Crazy*. Audiences watching *The Toy* (1982) saw the Pryor who made them laugh by simply being silly, whereas the Pryor who performed stand-up made people laugh by exposing his torment. And the only time that torment ever came through in his work outside of stand-up comedy was in his dramatic performances.

David F. Walker, *Sight and Sound*, October 2021

SILVER STREAK

Director: Arthur Hiller
Production Company: Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation
Executive Producers: Frank Yablans, Martin Ransohoff
Producers: Edward K. Milkis, Thomas L. Miller
Production Managers: Jack B. Bernstein, Peter V. Herald
Production Co-ordinator: Chip Fowler
2nd Unit Director: Max Kleven
Assistant Directors: Jack Roe, L. Andrew Stone
Screenplay: Colin Higgins
Director of Photography: David M. Walsh
2nd Unit Photographer: Ralph Woolsey
Special Effects: Fred Cramer
Process Consultant: Bill Hansard
Editor: David Bretherton
Production Designer: Alfred Sweeney
Set Decorator: Marvin March
Title Design: Phill Norman
Music Composed and Conducted by: Henry Mancini
Sound Recording: Hal Etherington
Sound Re-recording: Don Mitchell
Sound Editors: William Hartman, Edward Rossi
Stunt Co-ordinator: Mickey Gilbert

Cast

Gene Wilder (*George Caldwell*)
Jill Clayburgh (*Hilly Burns*)
Richard Pryor (*Grover Muldoon*)
Patrick McGeehan (*Roger Devereau*)
Ned Beatty (*Sweet*)
Clifton James (*Sheriff Chauncey*)
Ray Walston (*Mr Whiney*)
Stefan Gierasch (*Johnson*)
Len Birman (*Chief*)
Valerie Curtin (*Plain Jane*)
Richard Kiel (*Reace Goldtooth*)
Lucille Benson (*Rita Babtree*)
Scatman Crothers (*Rasltor*)
Fred Willard (*Jerry Jarvis*)
Delos V. Smith (*Burt*)
Matilda Calnan (*blue-haired lady*)
Nick Stewart (*shoeshiner*)
Margarita Garcia (*Mexican mama-san*)
Jack Mather (*conductor*)
Henry Beckman, Steve Weston, Harvey Atkin (*conventioneers*)
Lloyd White (*porter*)
Ed McNamara (*Benny*)
Raymond Guth (*nightwatchman*)
John Day (*engineer*)
Jack O'Leary (*1st fat man*)
Lee McLaughlin (*2nd fat man*)
Tom Erhart (*cab driver*)
Gordon Hurst (*Moose*)
Bill Henderson (*Red Cap*)
Charles Napier (*Matthews, FBI agent*)

USA 1976

114 mins

A PRYOR ENGAGEMENT**Richard Pryor: Live in Concert**

Wed 1 Sep 20:50; Fri 1 Oct 18:00

Some Call It Loving

Thu 2 Sep 20:40; Mon 20 Sep 18:00

(+ pre-recorded intro)

Lady Sings the Blues

Sat 4 Sep 11:30; Wed 15 Sep 13:50; Mon 27 Sep 20:20

The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars & Motor Kings

Sat 4 Sep 20:30; Sat 25 Sep 14:45

Blue Collar

Mon 6 Sep 14:30; Fri 17 Sep 20:40 (+ pre-recorded intro);

Tue 5 Oct 17:35

Jo Jo Dancer, Your Life Is Calling

Tue 7 Sep 18:10 (+ pre-recorded intro); Mon 4 Oct 20:45

African Odysseys Presents: The Black History of Comedy

Fri 10 Sep 18:15

Wattstax

Fri 10 Sep 21:00; Tue 14 Sep 18:00; Sat 18 Sep 20:10

Car Wash

Sat 11 Sep 17:50; Tue 28 Sep 20:50

Blazing Saddles

Sat 11 Sep 20:45; Wed 22 Sep 18:15

Silver Streak

Sun 12 Sep 15:15; Wed 29 Sep 20:45

Which Way Is Up?

Wed 15 Sep 21:00; Sun 26 Sep 18:10

Richard Pryor: A Comedy Genius

Thu 16 Sep 18:15

Stir Crazy

Sun 19 Sep 18:10; Fri 1 Oct 20:30

Bustin' Loose

Mon 20 Sep 21:00; Sun 3 Oct 18:10

Richard Pryor: Live on the Sunset Strip

Tue 21 Sep 18:00 (+ discussion); Mon 4 Oct 18:20

Richard Pryor... Here and Now

Wed 22 Sep 20:45; Sat 2 Oct 18:00

Brewster's Millions

Thu 23 Sep 20:45; Sun 3 Oct 15:15

A Pryor Engagement was originally programmed by Nellie Killian for BAMcinématek in 2013

This season is presented in partnership with We Are Parable

BECOME A BFI MEMBER

Enjoy a great package of film benefits including priority booking at BFI Southbank and BFI Festivals. Join today at [bfi.org.uk/join](https://www.bfi.org.uk/join)

BFI PLAYER

We are always open online on BFI Player where you can watch the best new, cult & classic cinema on demand. Showcasing hand-picked landmark British and independent titles, films are available to watch in three distinct ways: Subscription, Rentals & Free to view.

See something different today on player.bfi.org.uk

BFI SOUTHBANK

Welcome to the home of great film and TV, with three cinemas and a studio, a world-class library, regular exhibitions and a pioneering Mediatheque with 1000s of free titles for you to explore. Browse special-edition merchandise in the BFI Shop.

We're also pleased to offer you a unique new space, the BFI Riverfront – with unrivalled riverside views of Waterloo Bridge and beyond, a delicious seasonal menu, plus a stylish balcony bar for cocktails or special events. Come and enjoy a pre-cinema dinner or a drink on the balcony as the sun goes down.