



This great and important film has remained invisible since 1971.

**Now fully restored by Malavida and SFI
from the original internegative, “*JOE HILL*” will be presented in**

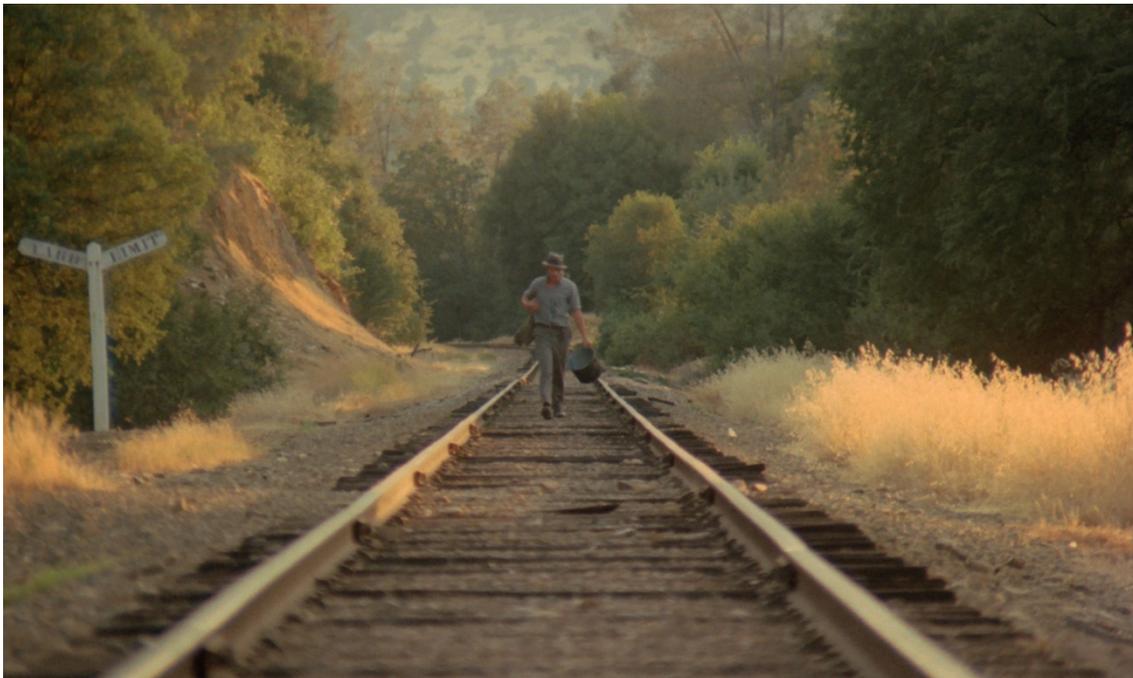
CANNES CLASSICS – MAY 19 – CINEMA DE LA PLAGE



OFFICIAL SELECTION
CANNES CLASSICS
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

Joe Hill (Tommy Berggren), who was known in his native Sweden as Joseph Hillstrom, arrives with his brother Paul (HASSE PERSSON) in New York in 1910. He is nineteen years old.

Full of high hopes, they soon are confronted with the bitter realities facing immigrants: learning to speak a new language and suffering the humility of dirty jobs amidst the crushing poverty New York's lower east side.



Paul leaves the city in search of work while Joe sweeps bar room floors and cleans spittoons on the Bowery. His love for music finds a kindred spirit in a young Italian girl Lucia (ANJA SCHMIDT) and they huddle on

the fire escape of the opera house because they cannot buy tickets. A tenor (FRANCO MOLINARI) feels sorry for them and permits them backstage, but Joe soon finds himself alone when the tenor seats Lucia in the audience and closes the door to him.

Traveling west to look for his brother, with an old hobo (EVERT ANDERSON) as teacher, Joe rides the rails across America – a nation torn by violent labor turmoil. After a last fling at a stable, bourgeois life and love with a farm girl (CATHY SMITH), Joe Hill wanders from city to city in the American West as an organizer for the I.W.W (the Industrial Workers of the World, commonly known as the Wobblies), an idealistic organization of unskilled and migrant laborers fighting for one big union for all workers everywhere.

As an itinerant romantic song writer from the school of hard knocks, Joe Hill is a natural for the Wobblies. In Salt Lake City, he is a central figure in organizing a miners' strike as well as banding together restaurant waiters. Later, he encounters his Italian sweet-heart from New York, who now is travelling with the opera troupe.



Joe is shot mysteriously and there is rumor that a woman is involved, but Joe flatly refuses to discuss it. The Utah authorities charge Joe Hill with murder – that same evening two masked men had entered the grocery store of a man named Morrison and shot him and his older son; the younger son states that shots had been fired at the assailants.

The trial provokes worldwide protest when it is apparent that Hill is being railroaded to his death. Elisabeth Gurley Flynn pleads with President Woodrow Wilson to intercede, which he regrets he cannot do.

While protests mount, Hill composes more songs and paints the map of the United States on the floor of his cell. His last appeals denied and protesting his innocence, Hill faces a firing squad, which is hidden behind a screen. Tearing his blindfold from his eyes to see the life around him, Joe commands the squad to fire.

According to his wishes, Joe Hill's body is cremated and the ashes sent to labor headquarters throughout the land to be scattered on the wind:

My Last Will

My will is easy to decide,
For there is nothing to divide.
My kin don't need to fuss and moan,
"Moss does not cling to a rolling stone."
My body? Oh, if I could choose
I would to ashes it reduce,
And let the merry breezes blow,
My dust to where some flowers grow.
Perhaps some fading flower then
Would come to life and bloom again.
This is my Last and final Will.
Good Luck to All of you,
Joe Hill