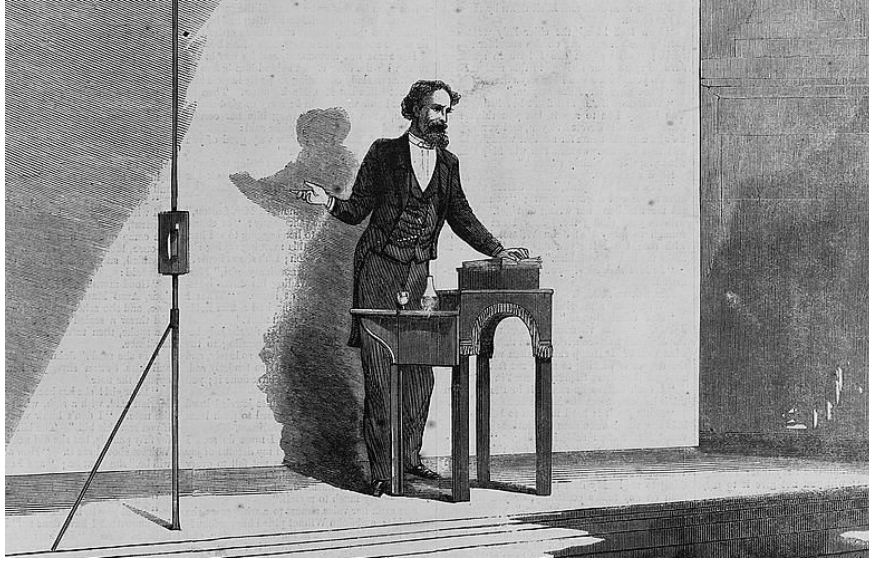


CHARLES DICKENS



ON SCREEN

Week Five

Welcome to *Charles Dickens On Screen*

Week Five

This week in *Charles Dickens On Screen*, we turn our attention to another big ticket selection that requires a week to itself, after the Pick(wick) 'N' Mix of last week's selection.

That's right, it's time for – abracadabra! – David Copperfield.

Sorry, wrong, David Copperfield.

We're talking about *The Personal History, Adventures, Experience and Observation of David Copperfield the Younger of Blunderstone Rookery*. Loved him a title, did our Charlie.

Interestingly, there is more than the usual amount of autobiography in *Copperfield*, some sections even stemming from an abortive memoir, much of which Dickens burned on finding himself too near the bone when discussing past loves.

It's also a standout example of star power being leant to the numerous, memorable characters of the novel. A raft of gifted actors on the way up the ladder have essayed young David himself, but Mr Micawber, the slimy Urian Heep and Betsey Trotwood have also seen some extraordinary interpretations, from character players and stars alike, beginning with W.C. Fields' Micawber in George Cukor's 1935 adaptation.

Fields, a known ad-libber, was such a fan of Dickens that he refused to change a line.

And then, of course, there is Armando Iannucci's *The Personal History of David Copperfield* which, to this correspondent's mind, is the best Dickens adaptation of them all, beating out a number of strong contenders.

I will bang on about this at length.

FILMS WEEK FIVE

David Copperfield (1911)
Theodore Marston

David Copperfield (1913)
Thomas Bentley

David Copperfield (1935)
George Cukor

David Copperfield (1956)
Stuart Burges

David Copperfield (1966)
Joan Craft

David Copperfield (1969)
Delbert Mann

David Copperfield (1974)
Joan Craft

David Copperfield (1999)
Simon Curtis

David Copperfield (2000)
Peter Medak

The Personal History of David Copperfield (2020)
Armando Iannucci