

REEL
CHICAGO



DAVID DRAZIN

SILENT-MOVIE PIANIST, 52

- How much work can a silent-movie pianist find in the 21st century? More than you might think. Drazin improvises as many as 12 live scores a month at the Gene Siskel Film Center and other venues, and his music appears on several DVDs. So when Buster Keaton does something involving, say, a ticking time bomb, Drazin provides the soundtrack. "People who love silent movies are having a heyday because stuff's coming out on discs and it's being shown," says the Evanstonian. Drazin blends ragtime, jazz, and themes redolent of Stravinsky. It may not exactly reproduce the 1920s movie scores. "I have a pretty good idea of what people played [in those days]," he says, "but you can't really know."