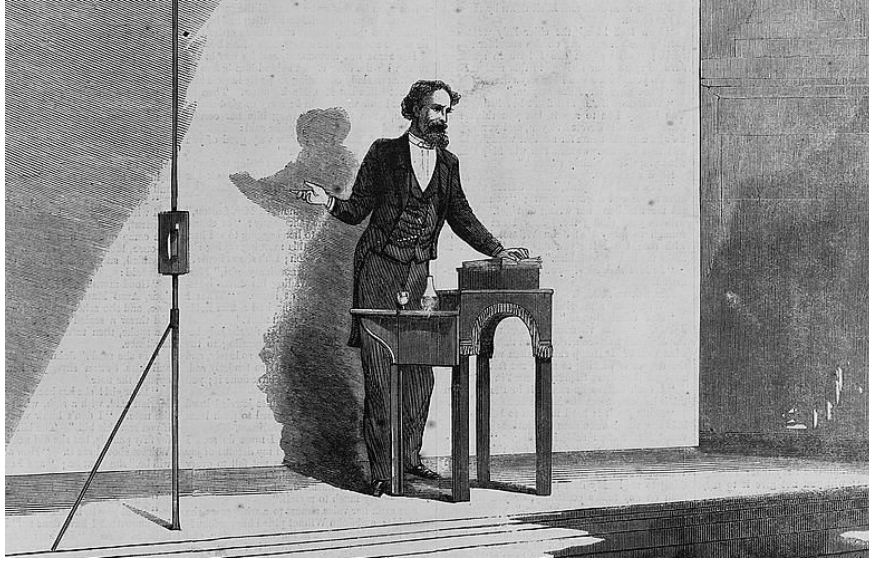


CHARLES DICKENS



ON SCREEN

Week Three

Welcome to *Charles Dickens On Screen*

Week Three

Two novels for the price of one this week, in the forms of Dickens' third and fourth offerings *Nicholas Nickleby* and *The Old Curiosity Shop*.

Never have reached the ubiquitous level of adaptation of *Oliver Twist*, but, in their time, as both long-running serials and novels, they were equally taken to heart by Dickens' readers.

They certainly contain some of his best-remembered characters, not least of which is Little Nell, whose demise – spoilers – was considered both heart-rending and, in some corners, woefully sentimental.

Oscar Wilde, as we've discussed, was reported to have said: 'One must have a heart of stone to read the death of little Nell without laughing.' We may never know if it is an accurate report of the great wit's feelings on the matter, but it does suggest such an opinion was, at least, in the air.

And that is one of the conundrums of Dickens' reputation. He wrote so deliberately for an audience, with such a concentration on characters and incidents that were contrived to make you *feel* that there will always be naysayers who feel themselves manipulated.

Steven Spielberg, will you please stand up?

It does present an interesting challenge for adaptors of the books, of course. How do you achieve a version of what Dickens intended and avoid accusations of, shock horror, soapiness?

And should you?

I guess we'll have to find out together.

FILMS WEEK THREE

Nicholas Nickleby (1912)

George Nichols

The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby (1947)

Alberto Cavalcanti

Nicholas Nickleby (1985)

Warwick Gilbert

Nicholas Nickleby (2001)

Stephen Whitaker

Nicholas Nickleby (2002)

Douglas McGrath

Nick Nickleby (2012)

David Innes Edwards

The Old Curiosity Shop (1979)

Julian Aymes

The Old Curiosity Shop (1984)

Warwick Gilbert

The Old Curiosity Shop (1995)

Kevin Connor

The Old Curiosity Shop (2007)

Brian Percival

The Bleak Old Shop of Stuff (2011)

Ben Gosling Fuller

Dickensian (2015)
Harry Bradbeer