

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – Nov 22-26, 2011  
Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

Which of these famous actors from Silent Films era are connected to Deaf culture and how?

- a. Buster Keaton
- b. Lon Chaney
- c. Charlie Chaplin
- d. Boris Karloff

Scroll down for the answer.

Answer “b” – Lon Chaney, a famous silent film star, is connected to Deaf culture because he is a CODA. Both of his parents were deaf. He was known as “The Man of a Thousand Faces” and probably acquired that talent because his first language was American Sign Language. His grandparents founded the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind. Read about Lon Chaney here: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lon\\_Chaney,\\_Sr.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lon_Chaney,_Sr.)

See a clip of his silent film acting here:

In Phantom of the Opera

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8zkYCEOJY>

In Frankenstein Meets the Wolfman - Transformation Scenes

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1q4Wn63uof8>

Lon Chaney – The Man of a Thousand Faces

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UthwwraN5Ho>

Note: All previous issues of DCQW are archived at the Washington School for the Deaf website: <http://www.wsd.wa.gov>