

Silent Pictures

Designed by Ellie Dix & Andrew Beardsley

3-8 players | 30 minutes | Age 8+

Silent Pictures is a cooperative party game of quick memory, clever guessing, and playful posing, set in the glamorous world of 1920s cinema. Each round, two players become the “movie stars,” simply recreating fun poses shown on their cards — no acting chops required! The rest of the group plays the audience, matching each pose to the most fitting caption. Together, you’ll work to capture the perfect “film reel,” building shared laughs and little moments of surprise along the way. With its charming silent-film theme, easy gameplay, and escalating challenge, *Silent Pictures* delivers a lighthearted, highly thematic experience that’s all about working together and having fun.

Components:

- 200 cards (72 in sample).
- 1 film strip holder
- Round marker
- 2 bow ties

Preparation:

- Affix the round marker to the number 1 position on the film strip holder and place it near the audience area.
- Place the cards and bow ties near the performance area.

How to play:

On each round:

- Two players are performers, the rest are the audience. The performers put on one bow tie each.
- In the first round, the performers take 3 cards, taking care to keep the picture side up. In future rounds, the number of cards depends on the success of the performers in the previous round.
- The performers study the cards, committing the images to memory, keeping them in the order drawn from the deck. Performers may not look at the text side of the card.
- The performers add a new card, then shuffle the cards and pass them to the audience - text side up. The audience may spread the cards out so they can look at the text side of every card, without looking at the pictures. They must not let the performers see the text side of the cards.
- From memory, the performers perform the series of poses shown on the cards, one at a time. During each pose, the audience decides which text relates to the pose. They read out the text on the card and put it in the film strip holder, in the topmost empty section.
- At the end of the performance, the performers flip the film strip holder to check that the right cards were selected in the right order. The group scores 1 point for each card in the right order.

End of round:

- Move the round marker to the next position.
- Performers for the next round are chosen, discard the current performance and draw new ones:

- If the audience correctly matched all poses to text, the new performers increase the number of cards in the next performance by 1.
- If the audience got exactly one card wrong, they keep the number of cards in the next performance the same.
- If the audience get more than 1 card wrong, they reduce the number of cards in the next performance by 1.

End Game:

The game ends after the 8th round.

Count the number of performance cards. Add 1 if all cards were correctly matched. Subtract 1 if more than 1 card was incorrectly matched.

As a team you score as follows:

- 0-2: Massive flop.
- 3-4: Straight to video...
- 5-6: Cult classic?
- 7-8: Oscar winner?
- 9+ Blockbuster smash!