

The Haunted House and Traveler's Nightmare, by Chomon

**Music by Dr. Carlos Duque
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Segundo de Chomón (1871-1929) was a pioneering Spanish film director. He produced many short films in France while working for Pathé Frères and has been compared to Georges Méliès, due to his frequent camera tricks and optical illusions. Chomón joined the company in 1901 and set up a laboratory for adding color to film in Barcelona. He first used the traveling shot (the first time it was ever used) and in 1909, was among the first to use silhouettes in one of the first animated films, the surreal *Traveler's Nightmare*.

In *La maison Ensorcelée* (*The haunted house*, 1907, 6 minutes) and *Une excursion incohérente* (*Traveler's Nightmare*, 1909, 8 minutes), Chomon utilized his talents as a special effects technician. In these short-films, I articulate a musical background that balances the modernity of the special effects and the ancient narrative process.