

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Thursday, December 16, 2010

**REPERTORY FILM** By STEVE DOLLAR

## Masters of the Cinema Universe

### 'Mechanic to Millionaire: The Peter Cooper Story'

**-Maysles Institute**

343 Lenox Ave., (212) 582-6050

Monday

His legend may be a tad less grandiose than other celebrated captains of industry who rose to prominence in the 19th century, but Peter Cooper's influence is felt by millions of Americans every day: He invented instant gelatin (later branded as Jell-O). He built the first steam locomotive. He pioneered the use of wrought-iron I-beams. He founded the Cooper Union, innovating the concept of night school and opening its Great Hall to epic oratorical spectacles. And, still going strong at 85, he was the oldest man ever to run for president, though he failed to lead the Greenback Party to victory in 1876. Documentarian Janet Gardner hosts a preview of "Mechanic To Millionaire: The Peter Cooper Story," which will make its broadcast premiere Dec. 28 on WNET.



PHOTO: Scott Klavan as Peter Cooper  
The Gardner Documentary Group