

The Man of a Thousand Faces



Thanks to his innovative use of film makeup, silent movie star Lon Chaney, Sr. was known as “the man of a thousand faces.” In truth, he had only four, but each one could be adjusted to make hundreds of variations. He also had 18 sets of teeth, 46 hands, 111 different ears, and more than a thousand warts, all catalogued and stored in an attractive travel case for easy retrieval. Each body part was realistic to a fault, often more so than the actual organ after which it had been modeled. Although Chaney professed to fancy each item in his collection equally, he lavished the most attention on his 255 noses, which featured his own “scratch and sniff” software. A gentle “scratch” on any part of the schnoz activated the “sniff” program, which analyzed the air around it. Not knowing what to do with the information, Chaney experimented on himself by scratching his own nose. Tragically, it became infected and he died without telling anyone where in his travel case he had stashed the mounds of data he had accumulated ... not that anyone was really, you know, *interested*.