

JANUARY 30, 2019

WRONG AGAIN - Filmed November 21 through December 1, 1928. Released February 23, 1929.

Working Title: Just The Reverse

In October of 1928, Director Leo McCarey got the inspiration for this movie's plot while sitting in his dentist's chair and seeing a copy of the famous "Blue Boy" painting on the dentist's wall.

Leo McCarey - would go on to direct such classic films as *The Awful Truth*, *Going My Way*, *The Bells Of St. Mary's* and *An Affair To Remember*.

Needles to say, the portrait of Thomas Gainsborough's Blue Boy featured in this comedy was **NOT** the original masterpiece. The original is currently housed at the Henry E. Huntington Art Gallery in San Marino, California.

The main filming location for this comedy is the mansion built for prominent local businessman Isaac Milbank in 1913. This is a 12 bedroom, 5 bathroom, 10,059 square foot home sitting on 1.79 acres of land. The home still stands today and has been seen in films and television programs such as *CSI: Miami*, *Beauty And The Geek*, *Farewell My Lovely* and *Running With Scissors*. This home was also featured in Harold Lloyd's 1922 silent feature film, *Dr. Jack*. Laurel & Hardy also filmed a few exterior night scenes here in their silent comedy *Do Detectives Think?* It became a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument on December 13, 1989. This mansion was last purchased in November of 2007 for \$4,280,000.

Most of Laurel & Hardy's comedies were filmed in sequence. This one was filmed from the end to the beginning.....Just The Reverse.

Dell Henderson - His film career dates back to 1908 in short films for D. W. Griffith and Mack Sennett. Not too long before his appearance in *Wrong Again*, Del was featured as Marion Davies' father in MGM's comedy *Show People*. He would show up in other Laurel & Hardy comedies such as *The Laurel-Hardy Murder Case* and *Our Relations*. Del Henderson can also be seen in *Three Stooges*, *Our Gang* and *Charley Chase* short comedies. His final appearance was on television's *This Is Your Life* with Ralph Edwards where he was there to honor Mack Sennett in 1954.

Josephine Crowell - began her career in vaudeville in 1879 and entered films in 1911. She had featured roles in D. W. Griffith's *Birth Of A Nation* and *Intolerance*. Josephine also worked with Harold Lloyd and Charley Chase. Her appearance in *Wrong Again* was her final film role.

LAUGHING GRAVY - Filmed February 2 through 4, 1931. Filming resumed February 6 through 18, 1931. Released April 4, 1931.

The original script title was *True Blue*.

This two reel comedy is a reworking of their silent film *Angora Love* where they were hiding a goat from the landlord. In a December 30, 1963 letter, Stan Laurel refuted this idea, even

though when watching these two films there are many similarities.

This is the only Laurel & Hardy comedy named for one its co-stars. Laughing Gravy (the female dog) was rescued from a Los Angeles dog pound in mid-October 1930. She immediately found a home at the Hal Roach Studios and was a favorite of Mr. Roach himself along with Thelma Todd. This cute little dog appeared in numerous other films with Charley Chase, Our Gang, Thelma Todd and two other comedies with Laurel & Hardy. According to historian Richard W. Bann, Laughing Gravy lived a long happy life, well into World War II."

Charlie Hall, who plays the dog hating landlord in this film, was so fond of this little dog that he actually took home one of her puppies. Charlie Hall appeared in 47 comedies with Laurel & Hardy and can also be seen as an extra in our previous film *Wrong Again*.

This film also has an alternate ending with a completely different story line. This alternate ending was used in Laurel & Hardy's French version of this film *Les Carottiers*, which presents the combined version of *Be Big* and *Laughing Gravy*.

At the end when Charlie Hall blows his brains out off camera, he fires three times. So, did he miss with his first two shots?

THE CHIMP - Filmed January 18 through 26, 1932. Released May 21, 1932.

Working Title: Monkeydoodle

Monkeydoodle dates back to a 1925 Irving Berlin song titled Monkey Doodle Doo written for the Marx Brothers Broadway show, *The Cocoanuts*. Hal Roach Studios was unable to get clearance for this title, hence *The Chimp*.

Filming began on Oliver Hardy's 40th birthday.

The scenes for the "Big Top" were filmed on a 10 acre property approximately one mile from the Hal Roach Studios. According to historian Marc Wanamaker, Laurel & Hardy locations guru Chris Bungo, Los Angeles County Assessor's Office, Sanborn fire insurance maps and United States Geological Survey maps, the boundaries to this acreage covered Robertson Blvd, David Avenue, South Canfield Avenue and Hillsboro Avenue. Today the property is a residential area. It is about 2 miles from the Hillcrest Country Club in Cheviot Hills.

James Finlayson - Appeared in 33 comedies with Laurel & Hardy.

Billy Gilbert - His film career began in 1929 working in more than 200 film and television roles until 1962. Appeared in 11 Laurel & Hardy comedies.

Tiny Sandford - Appeared in 23 Laurel & Hardy comedies.

Charles Gemora played Ethel the chimp. He was born in the Philippines and ran away to Manila when he was nine years old. After studying art for several years, he arrived in San Francisco in 1922. Eventually finding his way to southern California, he was hired as an extra by Universal Studios. Using his talent as an artist, he created sculptures for Lon Chaney films such as *The Hunchback Of Notre Dame* and *The Phantom Of the Opera*. Later,

he branched out into make and wig-making. Finally, this led Charles into making ape suits for films such as *The Lost World* in 1925 and Cecil B. DeMille's *The Leopard Lady* in 1928. When the director of *The Leopard Lady* was unhappy with the actor playing the ape, he suggested Gemora, who was only 5'2", take over the role. Taking this role seriously, Charles would go to the San Diego Zoo and study the actions of the gorillas. In addition to *The Chimp*, Charles Gemora reprised this role with Laurel & Hardy in *Swiss Miss*. Films as the gorilla with Lon Chaney, Max Davidson, *Our Gang*, Charley Chase and Thelma Todd/Patsy Kelly were part of his résumé. Gemora said that Laurel & Hardy were two of the most nicest, most friendly guys he had ever met. Stan Laurel said that Charles Gemora was the sweetest, greatest guy that he ever worked with.

The piano dance music we heard in the apartment was performed by T. Marvin Hatley. The tune was titled *The Monkey Waltz*.

In 1932 when this film was made, Stan Laurel's annual salary was just over \$104,300. Oliver Hardy's was annual salary \$77,333.

REFERENCES:

Laurel & Hardy: The Magic Behind The Movies
by Randy Skretvedt