

NOVEMBER 9, 2018

THICKER THAN WATER - Filmed July 1 through July 8, 1935.
Released August 6, 1935.

Working Title: Saturday Afternoon

This was Laurel & Hardy's final two reel comedy as a result of the economic changes in the film industry. Two reel comedies were no longer as popular as they used to be as movie theaters were now screening double features.

All scenes were filmed at the Hal Roach Studios.

The transitions from scene to scene are once again created by the magic talents of special effects wizard, Roy Seawright.

Primary parts played in this comedy by Allan Cavan and Gladys Gale along with extra Lester Dorr, all three of them made uncredited appearances in Frank Capra's 1939 feature *Mr. Smith Goes To Washington*.

Daphne Pollard plays Mrs. Hardy in the first of her two times as Ollie's better half. She did this once again in *Our Relations* the following year. Here, this tiny woman dominates Ollie without question. Her final film in 1943 was the Laurel & Hardy 20th Century Fox feature, *The Dancing Masters*, where she had only one line.

James Finlayson returns in another funny appearance with Stan and Ollie. The confusing dialogue exchange between the Hardy's, Stan and Fin has the early makings reminiscent of what would become the *Who's On First* classic routine from Abbott and Costello.

Charlie Hall is here once again with Laurel & Hardy, this time as a bank teller.

Harry Bowen plays the auctioneer. His film career listed 170 credits including several at the Hal Roach Studios in Our Gang and Charley Chase comedies from 1925 to 1936. He also had a small part in Laurel & Hardy's 1936 feature, *The Bohemian Girl*.

Gladys Gale was originally incorrectly listed as the professor's wife in *The Music Box* from 1932. Hazel Howell played that role. Gladys Gale plays the lady sitting next to Laurel & Hardy during the auction. She also listed as the lady Stan Laurel swats on the behind as she leans over to pick up a wallet in *Sons Of The Desert*. Early on, she was married to a leather goods manufacturer and later to a New York millionaire. Her career began on the stage in Chicago before heading to New York as a singer in *The Blue Room*, an upscale speakeasy before heading off to Hollywood. On a personal note, she also had many run-ins with the law and was arrested several times on drunk driving charges. On October 3, 1948, Gladys Gale and a man checked into a Hollywood hotel under an alias as Mr. and Mrs. J. Statler of San Francisco. The next day, her dead body was discovered by a bellboy. The circumstances as to what happened to her were never explained.

Allan Cavan is the doctor in the short comedy. His career dates back to silents in 1917. He had an uncredited appearance as a pedestrian in Laurel & Hardy's *We Faw Down* in 1928.

Grace Goodall - is the nurse at the desk. Her many appearances include films with Jean Harlow, The Three Stooges, Charley Chase, Will Rogers and Deana Durbin.

Bess Flowers - is the nurse who interrupts the doctor. She played Mrs. Laurel in *We Faw Down*. As mentioned a few weeks ago, she had over 900 film credits to her name during her 41 year career.

When Stan brings calla lilies to the hospital and he begins to eat the insides of them. In real life, these parts of the flower are very poisonous.

The end of this film is another way Laurel & Hardy played double roles: Brats (each other's sons), Twice Two (each other's wives), Our Relations (each other's twin brothers), Thicker Than Water (played each other).

THE LIVE GHOST - Filmed November 8 through 14, 1934. Released December 8, 1934.

The set used for scenes in this movie were also used in Our Gang's short comedy *Shiver My Timbers* in 1930.

Oliver Hardy's twin nieces, **Margo** and **Mary Sage**, were extras in one of the saloon scenes.

Walter Long - His career began in silent films including working in two with Rudolph Valentino: *Blood And Sand* and *The Sheik*. He served during World War I in France advancing to Lt. Col. in the Army. In December of 1941 at the age of 62, he volunteered to return to active duty with the Army in World War II serving as Lt. Col. with the Military Police in Washington D. C. before receiving an honorable discharge at the end of World War II. Although he was often called upon to play antagonists and villains because of his gravel voice and

rugged appearance, many people reported that he was actually a warm, kindhearted man off-camera.

Harry Bernard - is the bartender in this film. This was one of his 26 appearances with Stan and Ollie.

Arthur Housman - plays the drunken sailor here. He was quoted as saying, "I came to the stage by the star route. I read, when I was 17 years old, that any one born on October 10 - my birthday - was, astrologically, destined to be a great actor. I foolishly believed the stars, and here I am."

Mae Busch - started her career in legitimate theater and vaudeville before entering motion pictures in 1912. Mae was a Mack Sennett Bathing Beauty and worked with Eric Von Stroheim in *Foolish Husbands* and Lon Chaney in *The Unholy Three*. We remember her best as Mrs. Hardy in *Sons Of the Desert*.

Leo Willis - He plays the first sailor that Stan Laurel encounters in the saloon. His tough gangster look made him a favorite foil for comedians of the 1920s and 1930s appearing at various times with Buster Keaton, Harry Langdon, Eddie Cantor, Harold Lloyd along with Laurel and Hardy.

Charlie Hall - In another one of his 47 film appearances with Laurel & Hardy, here he plays a laughing sailor in this short comedy. He was born in Birmingham, England where there is now a pub named after him.

John Power - Plays one of the sailors in this film. British born, his real name was John William Pyman. Coincidentally, his father was a sea captain. He appeared in films that featured Clark Gable, Barbara Stanwyck, Judy Garland and Greer Garson.

Hubert Diltz - does a "108" (which is a mid-air somersault before landing) when running out of saloon. He worked as an extra for Mack Sennett in the 1920's and was Ben Turpin's stuntman in several comedies. Hubert's brother, Charles (who married a Mack Sennett bathing beauty), was a writer and director.

Tony Campanaro - Organ grinder with Josephine the monkey (at opening scene).

GOING BYE-BYE - Filmed May 21 through 26, 1934. Released June 23, 1934.

The idea for this film was based on the then current John Dillinger manhunt. The story name was changed from *Public Enemies* so as not to be confused with the James Cagney film, *The Public Enemy*. The story was then renamed *On Their Way Out* before it was finally called *Going Bye-Bye*. Two months after the filming of this Laurel & Hardy comedy was complete, John Dillinger met his life ending confrontation outside Chicago's Biograph Theater.

Walter Long - We just saw him in *The Live Ghost*.

Mae Busch - We also just saw her in *The Live Ghost*.

Harry Dunkinson - is the judge in this film. He had over 140 film credits to his name during a career that spanned 23 years.

Sam Lufkin - We recently saw him as the man who wanted his house built by Laurel & Hardy in *The Finishing Touch*. He was also the policeman who disciplined Stan and Ollie in *The Music Box*. Sam Lufkin was another member of Laurel & Hardy's stock company as he appeared in 39 films with them.

Murdock MacQuarrie - played the jury foreman in this film. He was a veteran of the Spanish American War. His brothers Albert, Frank and George were also actors.

Fay Holderness - who played Mrs. Hardy in *Hog Wild*, can be seen here in the jury while the foreman delivers his findings.

The flowers in this film are passed back and forth between Laurel & Hardy 16 times including the final scene where Ollie is still holding them.

REFERENCES:

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

Laurel & Hardy Stock Company by Leo M. Brooks

The Internet Movie Database

Wikipedia