

February 13, 2019

Politiquerias - Filmed January 12 through January 23, 1931. Spanish version released May 1, 1931 in Costa Rica. English version released February 21, 1931.

Polítiquerías in the Spanish version *Chickens Come Home*.

Watch Oliver Hardy in some of his close ups. You can see his eyes drift slightly to one side to read his Spanish dialogue.

In Stan Laurel's own words, "We'd make the picture first entirely in English, naturally, then we'd preview it." He went on to say, "So, then we brought in a French, German, Italian and Spanish interpreter. And then they translated our dialogue into each language. Each interpreter brought in his own company. Then we'd set up a camera for the first scene. He'd tell us what our dialogue meant in English, then he would tell us in French, for instance, and we'd write it phonetically as it sounded to us. And knowing the meaning of it, we got the correct intonation, which was helpful."

Rina De Liguoro - (Ollie's old Flame) - Her real name was Elena Catarina Catardi and was born in Florence, Italy. As a gifted pianist, she studied at the Conservatory of San Pietro a Majella in Naples. After touring as a concert pianist, she married Wladimiro De Liguori whose father was a film director. With her husband's encouragement, she changed her name and began working in films during the silent era. Rina came to the United States in 1930 and worked in films with Greta Garbo and Cecil B. De Mille. After this role with Laurel & Hardy, she appeared in two more Spanish language films before returning to Italy in 1939. Resuming her career as a pianist, she also worked in seven more films in Italy between 1942 and 1963.

Linda Loredo - (Mrs. Hardy) - This marks her third appearance as Mrs. Hardy in a Laurel & Hardy Spanish film. A few months after this role, she was playing Mrs. Laurel in Stan & Ollie's *Come Clean*. She also worked with Charley Chase, Edgar Kennedy, Harry Langdon and Thelma Todd during her brief time at the Hal Roach Studios.

Carmen Granada - (Mrs. Laurel) - had a very brief career, appearing in only four films during 1930 and 1931. Her first film was the expanded five reel version of Charley's Chase's *Looser Than Loose*. She also appeared as an Argentinean artist in a 1930 film written and directed by Xavier Cugat titled *Charros, Gauchos y Manolas*. Her fourth film credit was a supporting role in 1931 titled *La Cautivadora* (The Captivator).

Nelly Fernandez - (Gossip/Busybody) was the star of *La Cautivadora* (The Captivator). Her career dates back to 1917 when she made her debut in silent films. Cine-Mundial, which was the Spanish-language version of Moving Picture World, presented a feature article on the hobbies of motion picture actors in 1923. Nelly Fernández, who did embroidery and needlework, was one of the featured stars. She made only one more film after this one with Laurel & Hardy.

Cantu - (Abraham J. Cantu) This was his only film appearance. He did not get started in magic until later in life after successfully working as a barber. He moved to the United States and performed in theaters and nightclubs for many years in an elaborate Mexican cowboy (Charro) costume. He was the first magician to make doves appear. Cantu then toured Mexico, but changed his name because Cantu was so common a name. He reversed the letters and became Professor Tucan. He also had success in England, Ireland, France and was a member in the Los Angeles Society of Magicians.

Hadji Ali - In addition to this film with his daughter, Almina (aka The Princess), Ali also had a bit part as the "Turkish landlord" in Warner

Bros.' 1932 film *Scarlet Dawn* starring Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. and Nancy Carroll.

"I tried out my tricks first of all in the street, swallowing many glasses of water and then pouring forth a great fountain from one side of the road to the other ... A cafe proprietor saw me doing this one day, and chased me down the street. I thought he wanted to beat me up, but no—all he did was to put a coin in my hand and ask me to repeat the trick. Finally, he was so delighted that he asked me to come to his cafe and entertain the customers."

The medical fraternity was interested to the point of investigation and several of the doctors from Johns Hopkins and Maryland University examined Ali to see if there was a possibility of fraud. The doctors also felt that it was necessary to have expert assistance and asked a the Society of Osiris (an organization dedicated to magicians credibility) for help. A committee was appointed and the examination took place with the final result finding that no trickery was discovered.

After he died in England on November 5, 1937, his body was offered to Johns Hopkins University for study. This offer was declined.

Tiembla Y Titubea - Filmed February 17 through 28, 1930. Released April 28, 1930.

The English translation of this title is *Shivering and Shaking*. This comedy is the Spanish version of *Below Zero*.

Bob O'Connor - Plays the policeman who loses his wallet in this film. He was a bilingual actor performing in numerous comedies at the Hal Roach Studios for five years with Charley Chase, Harry Langdon, Harold Lloyd and Snub Pollard. He tutored Stan and Ollie in regard to the Spanish pronunciation.

Enrique Acosta - who plays the police chief was also the police chief in the Spanish version of *Night Owls (Ladrones)* and also the judge in *Politiquerias*. He came to the United States from Mexico and began playing character roles in silent films such as *Don Q, Son Of Zorro* with Douglas Fairbanks. Enrique also appeared in Charley Chase's Spanish language versions of *Girl Shock* and *Looser Than Loose*. From 1930 to 1934, he was very active in Spanish adaptations of English films.

Blanche Payson - At 6' 4" tall and weighing 234 pounds, Blanche was a policewoman in San Francisco before changing careers and joining the Mack Sennett Studios in 1916. She performed on a regular basis at the Hal Roach Studios in the early 1930's and would continue her career through 1946 working with Andy Clyde, the East Side Kids and the Three Stooges.

Leo Willis - worked with Laurel & Hardy individually before their teaming. He also worked in films with the Marx Brothers, Harold Lloyd and Eddie Cantor.

Pineapple ice was molded and used for the snowballs being rubbed into the faces of Laurel & Hardy.

REFERENCES

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

Magicpedia website

Wikipedia

Internet Movie Data Base

Alchetron (Hadji Ali)