

September 21, 2018

OUR RELATIONS - Filmed March 16 through May 9, 1936. Released October 30, 1936. Working title - The Money Box

In this feature, Stan and Ollie play themselves and each other's long lost twin brothers, Alf and Bert. This was third time Stan and Ollie played members of each other's family. In Brats (1930), they played each other's sons. In Twice Two (1933), they played each other's wives.

The history of The Money Box goes back to 1903 from a W. W. Jacobs short story about two sailors trying to save money by trusting "an old salt" aka a sailor friend to hold their funds for them. This was the basic idea for the Laurel & Hardy film Our Relations.

At this time, the Hal Roach Studios were ending their production of short comedies and focusing mainly on feature film production. During the past year, Stan Laurel had also been having creative differences over story content with his boss, Hal Roach. In order to maintain peace, Hal Roach billed this project along with their next feature film Way Out West, as "A Stan Laurel Production".

In order for the audience to distinguish both sets of twins, Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy were musically announced with "The Ku-Kus" tune, while Bert and Alf were identified by "Sailor's Hornpipe" music cue.

James Finlayson, Laurel & Hardy's best remembered foe, is at his best in this film. He made 33 comedies with Stan and Ollie.

Charlie Hall's wife, Wilda aka "Foxye", is the lady rolling out the birthday cake on a cart.

Alan Hale, Grogan the waiter, appeared in such films as *The Adventures Of Robin Hood*, *It Happened One Night* and *Great Expectations*. He was also the father of Alan Hale, Jr. of *Gilligan's Island* fame. Even *Gilligan and the Skipper* had a Laurel & Hardy type of relationship.

Noel Madison - On the American stage, Noel played sophisticated characters, but in films he is best remembered for his roles as a gangster. He was a founding member of the Screen Actors Guild. His membership number is 5. A solid gold card was presented to him is inscribed as follows: "In affectionate appreciation of the part he played in the founding of the Screen Actors Guild in 1933, this Honorary Life Membership is presented November 25, 1958 to Noel Madison by the Board of Directors". He left films in 1943 and returned to the stage as an actor and director.

Ralf Harolde - He was usually cast in shifty or sinister roles, as small-time crooks or gangsters. Harolde himself remarked in 1936: "I don't mind dying in a picture, but I'd like to be given the opportunity to die just once under circumstances which would permit the audience to be at least indifferent about my death, instead of being glad about it."

Arthur Housman - His film career began in 1912. *Jack's Joke* and *The Edison Minstrels* are two Edison 1913 talking sound films that have been recently restored with him speaking. Best remembered as the friendly drunk in five films with Laurel & Hardy and many other films.

Daphne Pollard (Mrs. Hardy) was born in 1891 in Fitzroy, Victoria, Australia as Daphne Trott. She began her film career with Mack Sennett in 1927 and was only 4' 9" tall. The year before *Our Relations*, she appeared as Oliver Hardy's wife in *Thicker Than Water*, Laurel & Hardy's final starring role in a two-reel comedy.

Betty Healy, who plays Mrs. Laurel, was the real life wife of Ted Healy from 1922 to 1932. Ted was the creator and original vaudeville partner of the Three Stooges. While Betty was an extra in two other films, this was her only featured role in a motion picture. In the years after this film was made, Betty and Stan remained close friends and corresponded regularly. In a letter from Stan Laurel dated February 17, 1959 he wrote "Daphne Pollard.....was a child star in the Pollard Juvenile Opera Company in Australia & toured the world. I remember you didn't care too much of her personally, but you did make a wonderful combination in the picture - great contrast".

Sidney Toler, the captain, is best known for starring in 22 Charlie Chan features for 20th Century Fox from 1938 to 1946.

June Gittleson (far left in photo with the boys, Fin and ladies) Appeared as mostly an uncredited extra in nearly 100 films in such as King Kong, The Gold Diggers of 1933, Mr. Smith Goes To Washington and several short comedies with The Three Stooges.

Iris Adrian had a wonderful career in motion pictures and television as a sharp tongued character actress with Jack Benny, Jerry Lewis, Abbott & Costello, Elvis Presley and many others. She had only one line at the end of the 1944 drama titled The Woman In The Window starring Edward G. Robinson, Joan Bennett and Dan Duryea. The reaction to her line from Edward G. Robinson was classic. Also in the 1952 episode of Abbott & Costello's television show titled The Drug Store, she was the woman who kept hitting Lou because he reminded her of someone she hated. Pictured here at a Way Out West Tent banquet in 1987.

Lona Andre - Born **Launa Anderson** in Nashville, Tennessee, Andre attracted attention with her first films in Hollywood and was named as one of the Western Association of Motion Picture Advertisers Baby

Stars of 1932. During the 1930s she appeared frequently in films, usually as the lead in "B" pictures. In June 1935, Andre eloped to Santa Barbara, California to marry MGM actor Edward Norris. Andre filed for an annulment action four days after her marriage in Tijuana, Mexico. In October 1942, she married Richard E. Patton. She was later married to salesman, James T. Bolling, and was divorced from him in May 1947. In 1938 Andre set a world's golfing record for women by shooting 156 holes of golf in 11 hours and 56 minutes on the Lake Norconian, California course. Her best round was 91 for 18 holes and her worst was 115. Her acting career ended in 1947. She then established a successful real estate business in Hollywood. In 1992, she attended her one and only Sons Of The Desert event.

The few shots of the two twin brothers together were created by special optical effects man **Roy Seawright**. His father, William was the chief architect of the Hal Roach Studios. Unfortunately in 1919, while the studio was being built, William was killed in an onsite accident. Hal Roach took Roy under his wing and gave him a job at the studio as his office boy until he finished high school. Next, Roy worked in the prop department until he was given a job as an animator in 1927. Eventually, he mastered the art of optical effects being nominated for three Academy Awards for his work on Topper Takes A Trip, One Million B. C. and Topper Returns. Married to his wife Bernice "Bunny" Seawright for over 60 years.

References

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

Internet Movie Database