

## NOVEMBER 2, 2018

**THE FINISHING TOUCH** - Filmed December 2 through 17, 1927. Released February 25, 1928.

Stan Laurel's daughter, Lois, was born during the filming this comedy on December 10, 1927.

Some of the gags in this comedy originated in solo films of Stan Laurel's *Smithy* (1924) and the Bobby Ray - Oliver Hardy comedy *Stick Around* (1925) .

**Dorothy Coburn** - Appeared in 12 Laurel & Hardy comedies including this one as a nurse in the hospital near the construction site. Dorothy's father was a producer and actor in westerns. Dorothy herself was an experienced and accomplished horsewoman. She was also a stand-in for Ginger Rogers and a stuntwoman for many Western stars.

**Sam Lufkin** - We saw him recently as the policeman in *The Music Box*. He appeared in 165 films between 1922 and 1951 including 39 of them with Laurel & Hardy. Sam also had numerous roles in films with Our Gang, The Three Stooges, Harold Lloyd, Charley Chase and W. C. Fields.

**Edgar Kennedy** - In addition to his washing machine nightmare in *It's Your Move*, Edgar co-starred in 11 Laurel & Hardy films and directed two of their other silent comedies. Among his 400 credits, he worked with the Marx Brothers and starred in his own *Average Man* series at RKO for 17 years.

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**BUSY BODIES** - Filmed July 15 through 25, 1933. Released October 7, 1933.

The story of this film has no story whatsoever. It's just Laurel & Hardy trying to get through a day of work at a lumber mill.

The tentative title for this film was *Fifty-Fifty*.

The opening shot of Laurel & Hardy driving is on Canon Drive in Beverly Hills.

The music heard while Laurel & Hardy are driving to the lumber mill is called *Smile When The Raindrops Fall*. After Stan changes the record, the same tune is still playing.

When Stan Laurel was asked in the 1960's what his favorite Laurel & Hardy films were, the list varied, but always included *Busy Bodies*.

**Charlie Hall** - We recently saw him as the mailman in *The Music Box*. He definitely knew his way around a lumber mill as Hal Roach Studios payroll ledgers show that he was employed more frequently as a carpenter than as an actor.

**Tiny Sandford** - At 6' 5" tall, Stanley John "Tiny" Sandford appeared in 23 Laurel & Hardy films. His movie career spanned from 1916 through 1943. After his acting days were over, he was employed as the head of a contracting firm. He has no dialogue in this film mainly because he was missing a couple of his lower teeth.

**Charley Young** - Also known as Charles Lloyd, he is the man who wants his jacket hung up. American vaudevillian and screen character actor. In 1911 he bought Jesse L. Lasky's "Hoboes" act, in which he toured Orpheum Circuit and other top circuits, both in U. S. and

abroad, for 10 years. Later he joined Mack Sennett in his Keystone Komedies and subsequently Hal Roach Production. He was a charter member and organizer of the Screen Actors Guild. Some sources list a birth year of 1870. Real name: Charles Lloyd Maude

Stories about Laurel & Hardy almost being killed when their car was sawed in half are not true. According to special effects master Roy Seawright, this effect was created with Fred Knoth's mechanical department and Roy's photographic optical printer.

The two incidents that did occur are found in a Hal Roach Studios accident report that occurred on July 20, 1933 when Ollie fell out of the car and tore ligaments in his left shoulder and bruised a bone. Hardy also got soap in his eye when Stan was trying to shave him, but did not spoil the shot.

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**DIRTY WORK** - Filmed August 7 through 19, 1933.  
Released November 25, 1933.

As in *Hog Wild*, this was a fake house built on an empty lot.

The roles of Professor Noodle and Jessup were originally slated for Richard Carle and Frank Austin.

When Stan pushes the pole with the brush up into Ollie's face, causing him to fall backwards, it is clearly not Oliver Hardy who does this stunt.

The clouds of chimney soot which engulfs the boys and Jessup was actually 400 pounds of pulverized cocoa powder.

**Lucien Littlefield** - plays Professor Noodle in this film. We saw him a few weeks back in *Sons Of the Desert* as Dr. Horace Meddick, the veterinarian who made a house call for Ollie. His career dates back to

silent films where he was featured in William S. Hart's *Tumbleweeds* (1925) and as the strange Dr. Lazar in *The Cat And The Canary* (1927). His popular talking films included *Ruggles Of Red Gap* with Charles Laughton and *Man On The Flying Trapeze* with W. C. Fields.

**Samuel Adams** (no relation to the beer company) - Born in Canada, he began his career there in vaudeville and eventually into the United States. In 1915, he appeared on Broadway in *Maid In America*. His motion picture debut was in 1932 with W. C. Fields in *Million Dollar Legs*. In addition to this film, he appeared in five other films for Hal Roach. His most memorable role was as the impersonator of *van Meer* in Alfred Hitchcock's 1940 thriller *Foreign Correspondent*.

**Jiggs** - originated the part of Cheetah in *Tarzan The Ape Man* in 1932 and again in *Tarzan and His Mate* in 1934. He was also in *Our Gang's Divot Diggers* in 1936. Plus, Jiggs appeared in the Buster Crabbe serial *Tarzan the Fearless* (1933) and the Herman Brix serial *The New Adventures of Tarzan* (1935). His final film was *Her Jungle Love* with Dorothy Lamour in 1938. Jiggs lived a short life for a chimp, passing away from pneumonia at the age of 9 in 1938. He was buried in the Los Angeles Pet Memorial Park in Calabasas, California which is also the final home of Rudolph Valentino's Great Dane, Charlie Chaplin's cat, Pete the pup from "Our Gang" and Hopalong Cassidy's horse, Topper. He was owned and trained by Tony and Jacqueline Gentry.

## **REFERENCES:**

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