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Les Carottiers - *Be Big* section filmed December 15 through 22, 1930. *Laughing Gravy* section filmed February 2 through 4, 1931 and February 6 through 18, 1931.

Beginning in late 1929, filming began on foreign versions of Laurel & Hardy films. In order to maintain their popularity in foreign countries, interpreters were brought in to help Stan and Ollie through this process. The team made several films over the next two years in Spanish, French, German and Italian. Actors who were known in these countries, were hired in supporting roles to replace the American performers. This entire process was expensive, but the financial payoff was worth it.

There were two different French versions of this film; one for France and another for Canada due to different pronunciations and idioms.

This film is a combination of two Laurel & Hardy comedies (*Be Big* and *Laughing Gravy*). To make the transition work from one story to the next, their wives have divorced them and left them to survive on their own.

Marguerite Roach (Mrs. Hal Roach) designed the dress for the three women playing Mrs. Hardy.

This was the final film that Laurel & Hardy shot in a foreign language. According to Hal Roach, "Those foreign pictures were extremely successful. The prices we got in South American countries and Spain were fantastic. But finally, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer made us quit because the other countries immediately said, 'We don't want dubbed pictures from Metro, we get them

NOT dubbed from Hal Roach. They wanted Garbo and Gable and everybody else to speak German. So, I stopped because the Metro people were one hundred percent right."

Anita Garvin - who played Mrs. Laurel in the English version, was also in the French and Spanish versions of this film. According to Anita, "I'd learn the line in kind of a pigeon-Spanish and I'd just move my lips; another girl speaking Spanish stood on the sidelines. She had the microphone off the set and she'd speak the real words."

Germaine De Neel - who plays Mrs. Hardy in this French version, makes her film debut in this Laurel & Hardy comedy. She also worked with Thelma Todd and Patsy Kelly in the Hal Roach two reel comedy *Bum Voyage* playing the part of a flamboyant vaudevillian Madame Zaza. She would only make about twelve films before leaving motion pictures in 1935. (Isabel Keith played Mrs. Hardy in the English version).

Jean De Briac - plays the Baldwin Cooke part of the friend who calls Ollie to invite he and Stan to a stag party. He was known for *Half Past Midnight* (1948), *The Divine Woman* (1928) and *The Duchess of Buffalo* (1926). He appeared in 122 films and television series between 1920 and 1962. Along with Pierre Wiell, he was also the man who worked behind the scenes on the French language with Laurel & Hardy.

Charlie Hall - who plays the bellboy in the first part of the film, speak his own lines, though very few of them, in French. In the second part of this film, he plays the dog hating landlord. His lines are spoken by a French actor. In real life, he 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

Laughing Gravy - Tony and Irma Campanaro, who managed all of the animals at the Hal Roach Studios, rescued several animals from a Los Angeles dog pound in mid-October 1930. Laughing Gravy (the female dog) was one of those lucky animals. She has been described as a Cairn Terrier or a Norfolk Terrier with a little Pekingese thrown in. She immediately found a home at the Hal Roach Studios and was a favorite of Mr. Roach himself along with Thelma Todd. Hal Roach's secretary, Ruth Burch, remembered that Laughing Gravy became one of many studio pets who had the run of her boss's office. Irma Campanaro said, "Laughing Gravy "lived a long happy life, well into World War II. People at the studio spoiled her, though, beginning with Mr. Roach." This cute little dog appeared in numerous other films with Charley Chase, Our Gang, Thelma Todd and three other comedies with Laurel & Hardy (*The Bohemian Girl*, *Pardon Us* and *Way Out West*).

Charles Dorety - had over 150 film appearances (mostly uncredited) between 1917 and 1955. He is best known for roles in the Andy Clyde and the Three Stooges short films. He started his performing career with the Al G. Barnes Circus and was vaudeville actor, film director and producer who appeared in silent comedies for Fox, L-KO and Universal from 1919 to 1922. He was also with Mack Sennett and co-starred with Dorothy Devore in the "Mike & Ike" series at Universal, 1928-29. He has small uncredited roles in other Laurel & Hardy films such as *Pack Up Your Troubles*, *Scram*, *Pardon Us*, *Laughing Gravy*, *Los Calaveras* (The Spanish version of this film) *The Hoose-Gow*, *Going Bye-Bye* and *Babes in Toyland*.

Stan Laurel felt that while giving up his inheritance for the sake of Laughing Gravy in the foreign versions would be funny, he also

felt that this bit would be at the expense of the relationship and Laurel & Hardy characters. As a result, it was deleted from the English versions of this film.

Double Whoopee - Filmed February 5 through 9, 1929. Released May 18, 1929.

Jean Harlow - makes this role her most memorable appearance in a Laurel & Hardy comedy. In 1928, she signed a five year contract with Hal Roach for \$100 a week. By 1930, she requested that the contract be broken and Hal Roach complied.

William Gillespie - worked with Stan Laurel during his solo film days. He plays the hotel manager on this film, but is best remembered as the piano salesman in *The Music Box*.

Rolfe Sedan - enjoyed a 60 year career in Hollywood working with such greats as Jack Benny, Burns and Allen and Mel Brooks. Among his over 300 film credits, Rolfe made uncredited performances in *Kid Millions*, *The Merry Widow*, *The Story Of Vernon and Irene Castle* and *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. He appeared four times as the mailman on *The Addams Family* in the 1960's along with guest roles on *Mr. Ed*, *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.* and ~~77~~ *Sunset Strip*.

John Peters - His real name was Hans Joby. He became Erich von Stroheim's double in the early 1920's. John was born in Austria-Hungary and came to the United States in 1914. He became a naturalized citizen in 1920. By 1926, he adopted the stage name of John Peters and would continue to work in films until 1942.

Charlie Hall - is the cab driver.

Tiny Sandford - is the policeman, making another one of his 23 appearances in a Laurel & Hardy film.

Charley Rogers - writer, actor and director who was very good friends with Stan Laurel. In later years, he wrote for television along with building and renting stores.

Addie McPhail - The lady powdering her nose was married to Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle for one year and one day from 1932 until his death in 1933.

Rolfe Sedan's quote: In regard to his reaction to Jean Harlow in Double Whoopee Rolf said, "We weren't told she was going to come in naked.....nobody knew! It was a shock for all of us when she came up to the desk, for a moment I almost didn't say the words. Even though I'd been in burlesque, they didn't walk around like **that!**"

REFERENCES

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

Essay by Richard W. Bann - Laurel & Hardy The Official Website

Internet Movie Database