

JUNE 4, 2019

HABEAS CORPUS - Filmed July 16 through 24 and July 30 to 31, 1928. Retakes filmed August 8, 1928. Released December 1, 1928.

This was one of the many "horror" comedies that were popular during this time. Harold Lloyd, Buster Keaton and Harry Langdon had also "horror" comedy credits.

This idea for this film dates back to 1925 from a script co-written by Stan Laurel for film titled *Moonlight And Noses*.

Editing for this film was completed in August 1928 but it was not released until December because the demand for sound films was increasing. As a result, a synchronized music and sound effects track was added to this comedy.

During the graveyard scene, one of the music cues you will hear is *Funeral March Of A Marionette*. It was originally written for solo piano in 1872 by Charles Gounod and orchestrated in 1879. John Philip Sousa's band recorded it in 1903. Alfred Hitchcock heard this theme in 1927 in the film *Sunrise*. When he was looking for a theme for his 1955 television show, he remembered this one. Over the years, this music has always been linked with Alfred Hitchcock.

Laurel & Hardy's hat mix-up routine happens again in this film.

The coat that Stan wears in this film was also used in *Do Detectives Think?* and *Early To Bed*. He would continue to wear this coat in films through 1934 where Laurel & Hardy's characters "down and out".

Richard Carle - was born Charles Nicholas Carleton in 1871. He appeared on Broadway regularly from 1899 through 1923 as an actor, writer of music, lyrics and books for numerous shows. He arrived in Hollywood in 1925 and had 130 films credits to his name.

Charlie Rogers - was a gag man at the Hal Roach Studios for many years and would make occasional appearances in Laurel & Hardy films.

Leo Sulky - a Cincinnati native, he appeared in many Mack Sennett short comedies through the 1920's. This is one of his five films with Laurel & Hardy.

The \$500 offered by Professor Padilla to Stan and Ollie in 1928 had a purchasing power of \$6,570 in 2012.

The "wet paint" routine was used again in Laurel & Hardy's *The Big Noise* in 1944. Working with a loony scientist would resurface again in 1933's *Dirty Work*. A bat flying into Stan's face can be seen again in *The Laurel-Hardy Murder Case* and *Atoll K*.

THE LAUREL-HARDY MURDER CASE - Filmed May 5 through 21, 1930. Released September 6, 1930.

This title is reminiscent of the Philo Vance series of films made by Paramount Studios during this time.

While this is a sound film with dialogue, Laurel & Hardy do not begin to speak until about 2:50 into this comedy.

This is the very first time we hear Ollie say, "Well, here's another nice mess you've gotten me into!"

This comedy is noted as the most profitable of all of the Laurel & Hardy short films.

During the filming of this comedy, Stan's wife, Lois gave birth to a son, Stanley Robert Jefferson. Sadly, he was born two months premature and died nine days later.

The following exchange between Stan and Ollie was in the Spanish version of this film, but deleted in the American release:

Stan tells Ollie that he had an uncle at Cambridge University.

Ollie: What is he? A professor?

Stan: No, he's in a glass bottle.

Hal Roach was not happy with this macabre dialogue and ordered it replaced. As you'll see in the film, the new dialogue is just as frightening.

Tiny Sandford - Appeared with Charlie Chaplin in 9 movies from 1916 to 1940 and with Laurel & Hardy in 24 movies from 1926 to 1936. His best-known role with Laurel & Hardy is *Big Business* (1929) and with Charlie Chaplin in *Modern Times* (1936). At 6'5" and over 300 pounds, Sanford was one of the few Laurel and Hardy adversaries who towered over the six foot Oliver Hardy.

Del Henderson - Former stage actor became a director of US film melodramas and actioners from 1913 through 1927, after which he resumed acting. He acted in films from the late 1910's through

mid-1940's, playing character roles with the advent of sound. He was an actor and director, known for *Show People* (1928) with Marion Davies, *The Servant Question* (1920) and *The Dead Line* (1920). He was married for 47 years to actress Florence Lee.

Fred Kelsey - had credits in 450 films from 1911 to 1959. He was a director from 1914 to 1920 for IMP and the Thanhouser Studios. While at the Hal Roach Studios he also worked with Glenn Tyron, Max Davidson and Charley Chase. During the 1950's, Kelsey worked with Andy Clyde, The Three Stooges and in the Joe McDoakes series.

Frank Austin - born George Francis Austin in 1877. He appeared in three other Laurel & Hardy films: *Pardon us*, *Hollywood Party* and *Babes in Toyland*. His film career spanned from 1922 through 1950 working in westerns and films with Frank Capra, Harry Langdon and Charley Chase.

Art Rowlands - began working in films by 1920 with supporting roles and stunt work in comedies and westerns. His company credits include time with Mack Sennett and Warner Brothers.

Dorothy Granger - returns for another small part with Laurel & Hardy in this comedy. She played Tillie the maid in *Hog Wild* also from 1930.

Bobby Burns - Had served a lengthy apprenticeship on the stage before starting in films with Selig. In 1919, appeared with Jobyna Ralston (one of Harold Lloyd's leading ladies) in a series of "Cuckoo Comedies" made by Vim in Jacksonville, Florida.

Rosa Gore - This was her only appearance in a Laurel & Hardy film although she did work with Stan and Ollie in some of their solo films. Before her film career, Rosa work on stage in vaudeville and musical

comedies. She also worked in Our Gang's *Shrimps For A Day* and the feature *vagabond Lady* while at the Hal Roach Studios.

Lon Poff - This was one of the three Laurel & Hardy films in which he appeared. *Habeas Corpus* (scene deleted) and *Two Tars* being the other two. He also worked with Douglas Fairbanks, Charley Chase and Our Gang.

The initials in the ad are L. A. H. which stand for Laurel and Hardy.

In one of the foreign versions of this film, the portrait of General Grant is replaced with a portrait of Julius Caesar.

At the end of this film, it turns out that Del Henderson's character as an old woman, is really a knife wielding man. According to Randy Skretvedt's book, *Laurel & Hardy: The Magic Behind The Movies*, it makes one wonder if writer Robert Bloch saw the end of this film and then used it for the ending of his novel, *Psycho*.

THE FIXER UPPERS - Filmed January 9 through 19, 1935. Released February 9, 1935.

The idea for this film dates back to 1925 from a Stan Laurel solo comedy titled *Pie-Eyed*. The story line for this comedy also is a reworking of Laurel & Hardy's silent comedy *Slipping Wives*.

Arthur Housman - according to Hal Roach, "Stan Laurel really liked Housman. Whenever I saw the guy, he seemed to be feeling no pain. I was never sure if he was acting the part of a drunk to impress me so

I would use him or if he was really just drinking all day. I never know the difference.”

Mae Busch - Her Hollywood career lasted 30 years while working with many of the leading directors, actors and actresses of the time. During her career she played Erich von Stroheim's mistress, Lon Chaney's girlfriend, Charley Chase's sister, James Finlayson's ex-wife and Oliver Hardy's wife. Her affair with Mack Sennett ended not only her friendship with Mabel Normand (Mack Sennett's fiancée at the time) but also her employment at the Mack Sennett Studios. Ironically, the title of the first film she made after leaving Sennett was *The Worst Of Friends* in 1916.

Charles Middleton - This is one of his four films with Laurel & Hardy. He began acting at the age of 46 in 1920 appearing in 200 films over the next 29 years. The following year after this film, Charles would perform in his most memorable role as Ming The Merciless in the *Flash Gordon* Serials. His father, Hugh M. Middleton, was the captain of Co. H of the 39th Georgia Infantry during the American Civil War.

Noah Young - plays the bartender who refuses to give Arthur Housman a drink. While he was in over 170 films during the silent era, this is one of his 11 appearances in a talking film. His voice was not well suited for sound films, so he retired from acting in 1935 and managed several apartment buildings which he had purchased during his days in show business.

Bob O'Connor - was a bilingual actor who worked in Hal Roach Studios comedies for a five year period. He would serve as the language coach for Stan and Ollie in their Spanish speaking films.

James C. Morton - was the policeman in this film. He worked often for Hal Roach, playing short-tempered policemen, judges, court

officers and bartenders. In addition to 11 films with Laurel & Hardy, James was usually the victim of shenanigans by such comics as The Little Rascals, The Three Stooges, most notably in *Disorder In The Court* (1936) and in a few of W.C. Fields films.

One of the paintings in Monsieur Gustave's studio is of Patsy Kelly in a suit of armor. This painting was recently made for a Thelma Todd-Patsy Kelly comedy, *Done In Oil*, where Thelma plays an aspiring artist.

REFERENCES:

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

Internet Movie Data Base