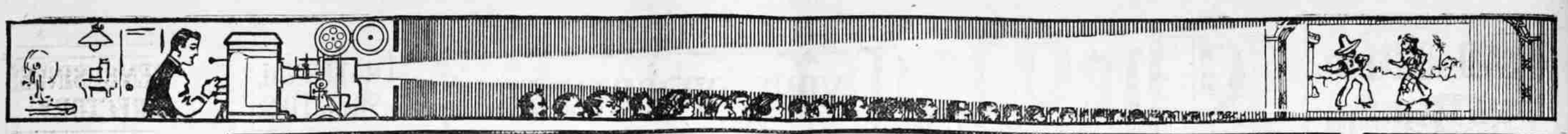

News of Photoplays and Photoplayers

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What Happened to Rastus Johnson

Shanghaied, Shipwrecked and Finally Taken Captive By Bloodthirsty Zulus.

When About to Be Thrown Into the Pot to Be Cooked for a Cannibalistic Feast, He Is Rescued by a Dusky Princess in Quest of a Husband.

"Rastus Among the Zulus" (Lubin)—Rastus Johnson, a happy-go-lucky coon, after eating a large meal, lies down on the dock to take a nap. While he is slumbering three roughs happen along and see him, and knowing a sea captain who is in need of men to fill out his crew, they seize Rastus and shanghai him. He is placed aboard the ship and the voyage started. The vessel is wrecked off the African coast, and poor Rastus is the only survivor. While wandering along the beach he is seen by the Zulus, who immediately give chase. Rastus runs through the jungle, but is compelled to give up. They capture him and take him before their king, who orders him to be cooked. One of the women of the tribe, who happens to be present when Rastus is brought in, knowing the king's daughter is ambitious to be married to some man outside of her own tribe, runs off to tell her of the captive. Rastus is led to the royal kitchen, where the cook pot is prepared. They are just about to thrust him in, when the daughter pleads with her father for Rastus' life. This he grants on one condition, that Rastus must marry the daughter. This he tells to Rastus, and Rastus, after a good look at the daughter, decides to take to the cook pot. This enrages the king so that he orders Rastus to be seized and given a sound beating. They seize him and throw him on the ground and commence. They beat him so hard that he wakes up to find a policeman tapping him with his club. The blue coat orders Rastus to move on his way, which he does, little the worse for his terrible dream.

* * *

Warren Kerrigan was born in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1887. He stands 6 feet 1 inch high, tips the scales at 190 pounds; is single; color of hair—dark; color of eyes—dark; has had three years' photoplay experience; has had extended stage experience, appearing with Shubert's "Brown of Harvard" and "Road to Yesterday," Brady's "Master Key" and Belasco's "Girl of the Golden West." He is more familiarly known to his friends as "Jack," and his principal diversion and pastime is writing to the many admirers of "Flying A" productions. He is a general all-around sportsman.

* * *

The Edison players in England are at present located in Devon and Cornwall, where they are producing a series of fisherfolk subjects. At one rehearsal in which Miss Nisbett was concerned the party were caught by the tide and had to rush for the rocks. Smuggling pictures in which the British coastguards are shown at work have also been made, while in every case the background and settings are constituted from the fine scenery to be found in the locality.

ESSANAY
FIVE-A-WEEK
SEE THEM AT YOUR THEATRE

EDISON PEERS INTO THE FUTURE OF THE FILM AND TELLS WHAT HE SEES THERE

Improvements On Which He and Many Others Are At Work—He Does Not Think Talking Pictures Will Displace the Silent Photoplay.

The motion picture is a subject of very deep interest to Thomas A. Edison. With all his oldtime physical and mental activity and energy apparently unimpaired he continues untiringly at work in his efforts to bring it closer and closer to perfection.

When the writer called on Mr. Edison at his laboratory in West Orange a few days ago he found him quite willing to give his views on the motion picture, past, present and future. Leaning back comfortably in his chair, after lighting a long cigar, he said in reply to a question as to the most notable steps of progress already made in motion pictures:

"Better photography, better actors and better technique in the studios, as well as the combination of manufacturers to prevent the marketing of objectionable pictures through censorship, have been the great advance strides in motion pictures," Mr. Edison began.

He gazed for a moment into the circling clouds of cigar smoke.

"The moving picture will endure as long as poor people exist," the inventor continued. "It fills the same want in the lives of the masses that the five-cent trolley car filled. The motion picture fits into their income. The workers deserve and must have more amusement than the richer folk, who are able to afford the regular theater and other expensive pleasures."

Mr. Edison firmly believes that the film is a mighty lever for good. "The motion picture is the great educator of the poorer people. It incites their imagination by bringing the whole world before their eyes. It sets spectators thinking and raises their standard of living."

The inventor smoked on silently, as if mentally weighing the future.

"The next steps of advancement will center about better photography, with less flicker, the production of multiple reel screen dramas, colored pictures and possibly stereoscopic films with the effect of actual depth.

"We do not know yet how to attain the stereoscopic effect. I have no less than four suggestions a day from all parts of America, but not yet have I found one process which is practical.

"I have long been working on a method to secure photography in all natural colors in their right value." The wizard drew from his pocket a small strip of film—upon which a scene was reproduced in the tints of nature—and handed it to me.

"It is raw yet," Mr. Edison commented, "but it proves the possibility of color photography. We can take sixteen pictures a second. The Lumiere process requires several seconds for one picture. It is quite a technical feat to get motion photography in perfect coloring. Our Mr. Powrie has devoted five years to it and it is going to come. Then, with the stereoscopic effect, perfected talking pictures capable of operatic reproduction, and the elimination of the flicker, we shall have the whole thing.

"Do you think," I ventured to ask, "that the talking picture will displace the silent photoplay?"

"I do not think so," quickly responded Mr. Edison. "Both will be used. The talking picture, when perfected, will provide the poorer people with that other branch of entertainment, singing and music. We will see and hear little operettas, impossible with silent pictures."

"What is your estimation of the future educational value of pictures?" I asked.

"Books," declared the inventor with decision, "will soon be obsolete in the public schools. Scholars will be instructed through the eye. It is possible to teach every branch of human knowledge with the motion picture. Our school system will be completely changed inside of ten years.

"The motion picture is destined to develop some of the most wonderful players in the world. The talking pictures demand and require good acting.

"In five years we will produce operettas in perfected talking pictures almost as good as if not better than the original. We will have better artists, we will rehearse longer, and we will give the full volume of the melodies. It will offer the poor a show for their money and, when you please them, you win a mighty clientele.

"In the years to come—and the years are not far off, although there are many who will doubt my prophecy—the technique of the picture will be so perfect that the great actors and actresses will live in their own homes, while their picture reproductions will travel and spread their art. This will come because the screen productions will be so much better than a performance of traveling players, which must naturally be affected by varying conditions.

"It will pay to rehearse the dramas for three months previous to a performance before the camera. Rehearsal is everything. Then duplication of the finally perfect performance will be unlimited. The motion picture reproductions will travel while the actors are preparing a new drama. So the picture will revolutionize education and the drama."

FAMOUS PLAYERS FILM CO.
PRODUCTIONS
MAKE YOU "SEE STARS"
ADOLPH ZUKOR, President
DANIEL FROHMAN, Managing Director

Chatter Caught As Cameras Click

Adolph Zukor Goes Abroad to Seek New Features for Famous Films.

Rosemary Theby Becomes a Reliance Star—Clara Morris's Home to Be Transformed Into a Studio—Thomas Comerford Joins the Essanay Eastern Stock Company.

Adolph Zukor, president of the Famous Players Film Company, sailed for Europe August 20th on the Mauretania. Mr. Zukor will make a whirlwind tour of the continent in the interests of his company. It is believed his mission is an important one, details of which will be disclosed after his arrival upon the other side.

* * *

Thomas Comerford, well known in motion pictures for his ability to handle the different characters assigned him, has joined the Essanay Eastern Stock Company. Mr. Comerford played in Lincoln J. Carter productions for over a quarter of a century. Mr. Comerford will play heavy parts.

* * *

Rosemary Theby will make her debut for the Reliance (Mutual Program) in a three-reel picture dramatization of "The Tangled Web," under Oscar C. Apfel's direction. She will be starred in the production, which is well adapted to her style of acting.

* * *

Harry Myers is one of the hardest working and most successful of the players of the Lubin Company. He is six feet tall, with blue eyes and dark brown hair, weighs in the neighborhood of two hundred pounds and delights in athletic exercises. He had an experience of fourteen years on the speaking stage. It is said he has an ambition to succeed King Baggot as president of the New York Screen Club.

* * *

The Pines, which has been the home of Clara Morris for 35 years, has been purchased by the Reliance Motion Picture Company and will be converted into a studio. When reverses came two years ago, friends and admirers of the actress, now blind, raised enough money to pay off the mortgage on the place. Mrs. Harriott, the old-time actress's name in private life, is now living in Whitestone, L. I. The estate purchased by the Reliance Company comprises about four acres of high ground, overlooking the Hudson River at 262d Street, New York City.

* * *

The property man with the Kalem Company at Rockaway, N. Y., was instructed to secure a canoe for one of the scenes and later in the day appeared, paddling down the stream. Whether or not he has aspired to become an actor he has not as yet announced, but whatever his purpose he began to execute some fancy stunts which capsized the boat. Unable to swim, he called lustily for help. The Kalem chauffeur happened to be standing on the bank and, making a spectacular dive, he dragged the amateur canoeist to safety.

KINEMACOLOR
LICENSED

HOO'S HOO AMONG THE POWERS BEHIND THE THRONES IN FILMDOM

Sidelights on Robert Daly, George Du Bois Proctor and C. A. Willat, Whose Names Hold High Rank On the Scroll of Fame.

Photoplay patrons will soon see on the screens pictures of exceptional power and charm due to the carefully laid plans of Robert Daly, who is perhaps, the cleverest director engaged in staging pictures. There is always an indefinable quality about his work which compels interest without revealing the mechanics of his art.

Those who know Mr. Daly say that he has the knack of imparting his immense personal magnetic force to the picture. That he has the gift which enables him to translate his mental conceptions into practicable working units; to deal at once with stupendous effects and the infinitesimal details that dovetail to produce them; to hold simultaneously the artist's broad vision and the mechanician's petty calculation; to see big and see little; to dream and to act; and all the while to figure on "getting over" to that most important element, the audience. And his audience consists of millions of photoplaygoers throughout the United States who patronize the Universal program.

Mr. Daly's loyalty to his work is reflected in his loyalty to his employer, Carl Laemmle, the prince of the independents. Associated with Mr. Daly are Fritzi Brunette, the talented and beautiful actress, and Glen White and Frank Smith, whose popularity is universally conceded.

George Du Bois Proctor, who wields such a trenchant pen in behalf of the uplift of the photoplay, has leaped comet-like from some shadow beneath the eastern horizon clear across the zenith. He is certainly one of the most enthralling writers in the motion picture field—an exceedingly brilliant master of construction and phrase. A photoplay producer noted for his Powers of analysis recently said of him: "I thought at first the man was merely clever. And then I concluded he was both clever and observant; after which I made the concession to myself that he was inspired. All three conclusions were wrong. He is merely intelligent in the nth degree. It's the only way I can account for his gifts."

* * *

C. A. Willat, whose individual efforts have been to a large degree responsible for the success of the New York Motion Picture Company, has tendered his resignation as general manager of that company.

Mr. Willat has organized a company to produce feature films, and the first part of September will go to Europe to secure agencies and make a tour of European factories to study foreign methods of picture production.

The new company has purchased a large studio and factory buildings in New Jersey. Mr. Willat, or "Doc" Willat, as he is known throughout the industry, is, perhaps, the ablest expert in his line there is. He is immensely popular among the boys of the Screen Club, the famous New York organization of photoplay actors and producers.

This is due to the fact that he is a kind, loyal, friendly amenable, companionable citizen, who will go farther than most folks to help or oblige a friend and who does remember longer than most a service performed for him.

UNIVERSAL FILMS
DEMAND THAT
UNIVERSAL PROGRAM

A Photoplay That Teaches a Lesson

"Intemperance," a Kalem Release, Tells a Story of Wrecked Lives.

The Outcome of Kitty's Attempt to Reform Her Lover by Marrying Him—Miss Laura Sawyer to Fill Important Roles for the Famous Players Film Company.

"Intemperance" (Kalem) — John Brent, the young minister, is well beloved by the members of his congregation. He makes his home with his sister Kitty, who is his constant companion. It is with no little unhappiness that Brent sees Kitty falling in love with Bert, a young man of the village, who is often given to intemperance. The girl hopes to be the means of saving Bert from his one bad habit and prevails upon him to enter the church.

Bert apparently lives down his taste for liquor and Brent finally approves of the marriage. But a number of misfortunes come to the husband and he seeks the consolation of the weak. The little home becomes the scene of many sorrows. When Kitty can no longer endure Bert's reprehensible habits she takes her child and returns to the minister's residence. Brent meets her at the door and hears her pitiful story. He insists that it is her duty to remain with her husband and bids her go back to him.

Kitty obeys, but the minister, full of apprehension, follows. He is just in time to save his sister from an act of violence on the part of the crazed husband. That night Bert discovers that Kitty has gone to her brother's. He stealthily enters Brent's house during the absence of the minister and is about to commit a greater crime when he is intercepted by a burglar.

* * *

Miss Laura Sawyer, until recently leading lady of the Edison Company, has severed her connections with that concern and is now associated with the Famous Players Film Company.

Miss Sawyer is very popular with the moving picture public, and during her long connection with the Edison Company was listed among the first favorites. She has appeared in some of the most popular films released by the Edison Company, prominent among which are "Lead, Kindly Light," "For the Cause of the South," "Cliff Dweller's Romance," "Right for Right's Sake," "Groundless Suspicion," "A Day That Is Dead," "Held Up in Holland."

Miss Sawyer has been engaged to do some important work for the Famous Players.

Recently a film publication represented Miss Sawyer as stating in an interview that she would rather be a man. Miss Sawyer is eager to contradict this assertion, as she is quite content with her present role in life, and does not contemplate taking up impersonations.

Billy Quirk

Fritzi Brunette (Universal)

Pelleas and Melisande (101 Bison)

The Social Secretary (Reliance)

Ruth Hennessy (Essanay)

The Clod (Lubin)

The Evil Power (Rex)

Laura Sawyer (Famous Players)