Tillie’s Punctured Romance (1914)

Considered to be the first full-length comedy film made in the U.S., it stars the legendary Charlie Chaplin as a cad who seduces a simple country girl, played by Marie Dressler, in an attempt to steal her money. At the same time, he also is trying to hold onto his girlfriend, portrayed by Mabel Normand. Adding to the comedic frenzy: The Keystone Kops.

SAT, OCT 19, 2 & 7 PM

DIRECTED BY Mack Sennett

PRODUCED BY Keystone Film Company

WRITTEN BY Hampton Del Ruth, Craig Hutchinson and Mack Sennett

35mm restored print courtesy of the UCLA Film & Television Archive.

Restoration funding provided by The Film Foundation, UK Film Council, and Saving the Silents.

Cast
Marie Dressler as Tillie Banks, Country Girl
Mabel Normand as Mabel, Charlie’s Girl Friend
Charles Chaplin as Charlie, City Slicker
Mack Swain as John Banks, Tillie’s Father
Charles Bennett as Uncle Banks, Tillie’s millionaire uncle

ALLEN ORGAN: Jelani Eddington

LOBBY ACTS
DOC THE RUBE & DAN THE MAGIC MAN

VAUDEVILLE ACTS
KEN LONNQUIST WITH DOUG BROWN, NATALIE POPP & SARAH MARTY AND GRANDMA RUTH

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FEATURED FEMALES OF THE FILM

Marie Dressler was born Leila Marie Koerber on November 9, 1868. She was a successful screen actress in vaudeville and comic operas as well as in film. Marie left home at the age of 14 and built a career on stage in traveling theatre troupes. In 1892, she started a career on Broadway that lasted into the 1920s, performing comedic roles that allowed her to improvise to get laughs. From one of her successful Broadway roles, she played the titular role in the first full-length screen comedy, *Tillie's Punctured Romance*. She made several shorts, but mostly worked in New York City on stage. In 1914, she was in the first full-length film comedy. In 1919, she helped organize the first union for stage chorus players.

Her career declined in the 1920s, and Dressler was reduced to living on her savings while sharing an apartment with a friend. In 1927, she returned to films at the age of 59 and experienced a remarkable string of successes. She won the Academy Award for Best Actress in 1930–31 for *Min and Bill* and was named the top film star for 1932 and 1933. She died of cancer in 1934.

Mabel Normand was born on November 10, 1892. She was a silent-film actress, screenwriter, director and producer. She was a popular star and collaborator of Mack Sennett in his Keystone Studios films, and at the height of her career in the late 1910’s and early 1920’s, she had her own movie studio and production company. Onscreen, she appeared in 12 successful films with Charlie Chaplin and 17 with Roscoe Arbuckle, at times writing and directing movies featuring Chaplin as her leading man.

Throughout the 1920’s, her name was linked with widely publicized scandals, including the 1922 murder of William Desmond Taylor and the 1924 shooting of Courtland Dines, who was shot by Normand’s chauffeur using her pistol. She was not a suspect in either crime. Her film career declined, and she suffered a recurrence of tuberculosis in 1923, which led to a decline in her health, retirement from films, and her death in 1930 at age 37.

HOST JOE THOMPSON

Joe Thompson has appeared on Madison stages countless times (plus one if you are counting tonight). He has always been a swell dresser and he likes to eat before he is hungry. Every Monday, Joe sketches waterfowl and recites Zen poetry aloud, but the rest of his week is fairly normal. Right now he is taking attendance ... please raise your hand. He is a member of Madison’s sketch comedy troupe “The Prom Committee” and co-author of “Fatherhood, The Musical” with Phil Martin. He is the proud father of three and the lucky husband of one.

GRAND BARTON ORGAN

Overture Center for the Arts’ Capitol Theater is proud to house one of only a few historic theater organs still in its original home. Last year, thanks to the generosity of many donors and supporters in addition to the Madison Community Foundation, Overture Center was able to pursue the restoration of the 1927 instrument. It is expected to be returned to the Capitol Theater, completely restored, in 2020. For this season, an Allen Organ will be used in place of the Grand Barton Organ. The Allen Organ Company has been providing organs for churches, theaters, schools, sports venues and more since 1937 and we’re confident it will be an excellent replacement in the interim.

NOTE: Overture’s Duck Soup Cinema silent film series is nationally known for providing an authentic and rare silent film experience in the historic Capitol Theater. As these films were released nearly a century ago, please be aware they may depict some of the theatric and social conventions of the time including material that may be considered socially insensitive today.
LOBBY ACTS

Jim “Doc the Rube” Carter
Jim “Doc the Rube” Carter has been entertaining in central Wisconsin for over 15 years. During that time, he has performed at the Clown Hall of Fame in Delevan, the Kids Expo in Madison, Pardeeville Watermelon Festival, The Mount Horeb Mustard Festival, the Iowa County Fair, Perkins and Pedro’s restaurants, and Duck Soup Cinema at Overture Center for the Arts.

Doc and his clown colleagues provide stage shows, walkaround clowning, balloon twisting, face painting, deco-twisting, and clown ministry activities.

Recently retired from Covance Laboratories in Madison, he worked as a veterinary pathologist for 25 years. He graduated four times from Kansas State University and still considers himself a Wildcat.

Dan the Magic Man (Dan Feaster)
Dan has many talents. In addition to the information provided on the other pages, Dan also specializes in other areas and has over 35 years of experience. Dan received the International Brotherhood of Magicians Madison Chapter, 2013 Magician of the Year. He is a member of the Houdini Club of Wisconsin and the Order of Merlin, International Brotherhood of Magicians. Dan is also available during the holiday season to fill in for the big guy as Santa for your event.

Dan is a licensed Psychotherapist that often incorporates magic, hypnosis, and critical thinking in his practice. He has taught magic and has lectured nationally and internationally on, Magic, Deception, and Critical Thinking.

VAUDEVILLE ACTS

Ken Lonnquist
A funny, enjoyable songwriter from Wisconsin, Ken’s performed professionally since his college days.

In 1982 he won a national audition to become Minstrel for the Environment, writing and performing about nature, environmental and related issues in schools and colleges. On the college circuit he honed his skills at improvisation and topical humor (as heard on NPR, Air America, the CBC, Pacifica Radio). A series of recordings for adults and children followed, with recognition from Audubon, Parents Choice, American Library Association, Booklist, Children’s Music Web, Parents Guide to Children’s Media and others solidifying his reputation as a children’s entertainer. Ken’s love for musical theater found an outlet as composer for Children’s Theater of Madison, where 15 productions of his full-scale musicals were presented. He travels with smaller shows with his musical troupe, and his charm and energy as a live performer remain the heart of his work.

Doug Brown
Composer, performer and multi-instrumentalist Doug Brown has appeared at major music festivals in North America and Europe including the Cork Jazz Festival (Ireland), the Zelt Musik Festival (Germany), the Winnipeg Folk Music Festival (Canada) and the Festival of American Music at the Barbican Centre in London, England.

He has performed with Barbara K and Pat MacDonald of Timbuk 3, “string-swing” group Harmonious Wail, songwriter Ken Lonnquist and many others. His compositions have been heard at regional theaters especially American Players Theater where he was a resident musician and composer throughout the 80’s and which in 1999 prominently featured his compositions for Pericles.

Doug has released two CDs with jazz singer Michelle Duvall, their first, Standards and Chillin’ At The White Horse, a collection of original songs written about the people Doug and Michelle have met while performing at Madison’s White Horse Inn. Other recordings include Shades of Brown, Music from American Players Theater, two CD’s as a member of Harmonious Wail.
VAUDEVILLE ACTS cont.

(Airborne and Live From the Zelt Music Festival). His music may also be heard on the compilation CD Music from American Streets and Café’s and on the Madison Music Collective’s Gathering. He produced and arranged Bergan Riley’s debut CD Swing Me, and numerous other recordings.

In other media, he has written and recorded theme music for Wisconsin Public Television’s pilot of Wayne’s Country Roads, and also (with Tom Waselchuk) music for TAPIT Theater. Most recently he composed the score for the Brent Notbohm film Madison which debuted at the Wisconsin Film festival in 2008.

Natalie Popp

A confident, creative and energetic (loud) young lady whose philosophy is to live life as though you are always on stage. Natalie’s stage career began in preschool, having performed in numerous shows through Verona Area Community Theater. Her favorite role was Annie in Magic Treehouse Dinosaurs Before Dark. In addition to acting, Natalie enjoys ballet, tap, jazz, and musical theater (her favorite) dance classes. Natalie is 11 years old and in the 6th grade at Our Redeemer Lutheran School in Madison. There, she relished the role of Kassim in the spring production of Aladdin Jr. Natalie loves to sing not just for her enjoyment, but also to annoy her big brother. This fall, Natalie was a youth finalist in Overture’s Rising Stars talent competition and plans to keep reaching for the stars! She is thrilled to be performing for you today; enjoy the show!

Ruth & Sarah Marty

Ruth Marty and her granddaughter Sarah recently released the Swissconsin CD project and were featured this past December on Wisconsin Public Television’s “Wisconsin Life.” Born and raised in Barron County, Ruth is the daughter of Swiss immigrants and studied accordion with Iva Rindlisbacher. When her family moved to Monticello, she lived on her own for her senior year so she could graduate from Barron High School. After graduation, she joined her family in Green County where she taught music for Rudy Burkhalter and met her husband Hans Marty. Ruth and Hans ran the family farming business for several decades and celebrated their Swiss heritage by participating in festivals in New Glarus and traveling to Switzerland. A Faculty Affiliate at UW-Madison Division of the Arts and director of the Arts Management program at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Sarah Marty is Producing Artistic Director for Four Seasons Theatre and Program Director for the Madison Early Music Festival. As a theatre producer she’s spent the last two decades collaborating with campus and community partners, whether working with the Professor Mike Leckrone and the Badger Band for the UW Varsity Band Show or welcoming the His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Overture Center for the Arts.

POP QUIZ

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The Local Legends program honors individuals and organizations who lead by example in their support of the arts and community engagement. We want to acknowledge those who wish to create a legacy through a transformative gift of $100,000 or more to Overture and our community.

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An anonymous couple in honor of Glenda Noel-Ney and Tim Sauer, VP of Programming and Community Engagement, for their dedication to the arts throughout their careers, and their tremendous influence on making Overture this wonderful place to be introduced to, experience and enjoy the arts.

An anonymous couple because they believe Overture is a beautiful space that everyone should be able to enjoy.

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