

LOOSER THAN LOOSE

OF THE AIR



JANUARY, 2006

VOL.3 ISSUE N°1

The Internet Noiseletter of Looser Than Loose Publishing

Last
Minute
Bulletin

T-E-L-E-G-R-A-P-H-I-C

NEWS

OF THE
HOUR

LOOSER THAN LOOSE

373 South Willow Street N° 227

Manchester, New Hampshire

03103

www.loosertanloose.com



J U S T R E L E A S E D !

The Larger World of Laurel and Hardy
Volume II

featuring

- Babe London
- Charley Chase
- Edgar Kennedy
- Oliver Hardy
- Stan Laurel
- Jess De Vorka
- Billy Bletcher
- Gracie Fields

Ambrose's First Falsehood
Call the Wagon - Married to Order
The Hobo - The Other Fellow

LOOSER THAN LOOSE

The Larger World of Laurel and Hardy Volume II

The second disc in this series offers another group of seldom seen comedy shorts populated (at least in part) by familiar figures in the world of Laurel and Hardy. With us this time are Babe London in a complete Christie-Educational two-reeler, Charley Chase in two shorts, Ed Kennedy in two shorts, another Billy West title with Babe Hardy in support and a handful of less familiar faces like Jess De Vorka and Billy Bletcher filling out the various casts. We've also included a special audio section featuring Music Hall performers Gracie Fields and Kirby and Hudson. Just in case that isn't enough, our opening montage features a clip of Stan Laurel and Babe London "watching" the L&H short *Our Wife* in Stan's apartment at the Oceana!

As always, we have labored over the presentation of these films. To that end, correct titles and intertitles have been recreated whenever necessary, proper projection speeds (24 fps) have been observed and period (dance music) scores have been created from restored acoustic and electric 78 rpm records. The source materials for the visual elements on this dvd are all 16mm prints, except *The Other Fellow* which came originally from 35mm. Every feature on *The Larger World of Laurel and Hardy, Volume Two* is easily accessible from a full and easy to use menu system. Looser Than Loose Publishing uses only Sony and Adobe products to author its dvds. Minimal compression rates are employed to optimize the reproduction of the original transfers and all of our dvds are processed using high quality, printable Fuji DVD-R discs.

AVAILABLE NOW!

Ordering Information

\$19.99 (U.S.) + \$5.00 S&H domestic (\$7.00 foreign)

LOOSER THAN LOOSE PUBLISHING

373 South Willow #227, Manchester, NH 03103, USA

Via PayPal at www.loosertanloose.com

The Larger World of Laurel and Hardy Vol. II

The Films

Ambrose's First Falsehood (Keystone-Mutual 12-12-14) Directed by: Dell Henderson; Cast: Mack Swain, Minta Durfee, Charley Chase, Edgar Kennedy, Slim Summerville, Cecile Arnold, Phyllis Allen. 1 Reel. *Synopsis:* Ambrose (Mack Swain) is lured away from home by a young friend (Charley Chase) and a pair of attractive girls. The friend sends a note to Ambrose's wife (Minta Durfee) that her husband has been called away on business and will be taking 'The Flyer' up the coast. Subsequently, the foursome find themselves at a club managed by Ed Kennedy where Ambrose is used by Kennedy's girl in a ploy to make the surly club owner jealous. Meanwhile, word comes to Mrs. Ambrose that 'The Flyer' has been wrecked and all aboard have perished. After a confrontation with Kennedy, Ambrose flees the nightclub, taking the girl's purse with him by mistake. Kennedy and his gal tear after him. Ambrose returns home to find the house decked out in mourning gear and when confronted with the terrible news of the train wreck, he offers a story of heroic struggle and survival. No sooner has he done this than a later edition of the paper is chucked through the window explaining that the story of the wreck was all wrong, a freight train having been mistaken for 'The Flyer.' At this point, Edgar and the girl arrive looking for the purse (which, by this time, Ambrose has given to his wife as a gift). In the end, the girl gets her purse and Ambrose gets a menacing threat from Kennedy. It is Mrs. Ambrose, however, who cleans her husband's clock. *Note the similarity between the plot of this film and those of the L&H films We Faw Down and Sons of the Desert!*

Call the Wagon (Christie-Educational 12-30-23) Directed by: Scott Sidney; Cast: Neal Burns, Charlotte Merriam, Babe London, Victor Rodman, Lila Leslie, Billy Bletcher, Jess De Vorka. Cartoon inter-titles by Norman Z. McLeod. 2 Reels. *Synopsis:* In order to win the hand of his girl (Charlotte Merriam) over the rest of her suitors, a young man (Neal Burns) attempts to convince his rivals that she is "put together like a Ford." In short, he tells them that she has false teeth, false hair, etc. He enlists the aid of the young woman's handmaiden (Babe London) to parade past his rivals carrying various things like wigs and false teeth through the living room where the suitors have gathered awaiting the young girl's entrance. One by one, Burns manages to drive off his competitors. When the girl discovers the reason why her boyfriends have all flown the coop, she sets about a ruse of her own by 'demonstrating' to Burns that she is, in fact, 'put together like a Ford' - complete with a glass eye! Prior to this, however, she accepts his proposal of marriage.

When the moment of terrible discovery comes, Burns attempts to break off the engagement by feigning lunacy. This results, not in the intended escape, but in a potential trip to the booby hatch. At Charlotte's recommendation, a noted expert on insanity and his henchmen have been summoned to capture the madman. After a lengthy chase, Burns evades his would-be captors by 'borrowing' a policeman's uniform and returns to Charlotte's house where he overhears her telling her parents of the deception through fits of laughter. Burns, still in the guise of a patrolman, manages to abscond with his girl, dragging her off to the house of the local Justice where, after revealing his identity and subjecting her to a minimal amount of cajoling, she accepts his second proposal and the two skip happily up the pathway to matrimony. *L&H fans may be happy to observe that Babe London has a rather substantial role and contributes a few laughs to the film. As always, her pleasant disposition shines through. Bit players Billy Bletcher and Jess De Vorka (who you may remember from the Max Davidson shorts) figure semi-prominently as two of Burns' rival suitors. A rare, complete Christie!*

Married to Order (Royal Comedies-Reelcraft for states' rights release; 10-30-20) Directed by: Charles Parrott; Cast: Charley Chase, Rosemary Theby, Babe Hardy, Leo White, Bud Ross. 2 Reels. *Synopsis:* Charley is in love with Rosemary, but her father (Babe Hardy) refuses to let him into the house, let alone actually court the girl. Angrily dismissed by Hardy as a 'molly-coddle,' Charley sets about a series of schemes by which to gain entrance to the home and deceive his would-be father-in-law who, by the way, is terribly near-sighted. This myopic condition allows for a hilarious gag in which Charley disguises himself as a suit of armor while Babe, who has deep suspicions that Chase is not, in fact, a suit of armor, struggles fiercely to put on his glasses. When discovered, Charley slowly leans forward and daintily pecks Babe on the lips! This, of course, results in yet another violent expulsion from the house and our hero is back to square one.

Eventually, Charley discovers that Rosemary's twin brother is due home for a visit. This, he reasons, will afford the couple an opportunity to elope by tricking the near-sighted Hardy into thinking that Rosemary is actually her brother. Charley picks up a used automobile (a 'Fronty' Ford for you antique car fans) and the elopement is on. At the height of the deception, however, a similar plan occurs to Hardy, who has been fully bushwhacked by the couple, and he takes Rosemary (who is dressed as her twin) aside and asks that she 'put on [her]

Married to Order (Cont'd.)

sister's clothes in order to fool Charley into an embarrassing wedding ceremony. Rosemary happily obliges and Babe returns to Charley where he gives his permission for the 'two' to wed. Babe even goes so far as to call the Justice to the house, telling him over the phone that his daughter is about to marry a 'he-man cream puff.' The Justice arrives and marries Charley and Rosemary. A telephone call from the real twin comes just after the vows have been exchanged, revealing to Babe the true nature of the plot, but Hardy graciously accepts Charley into the family with a hearty handshake. *This film was originally made at the King Bee Studios in Hollywood in July, 1919. Billy West, the intended star, was unable to make the film and the director, Chase, put himself in front of the camera. Accordingly, the film runs much like a later Chase silent with a tremendous performance by Oliver Hardy. To our knowledge this is the first time that this title has been offered commercially, although a poor quality video version has circulated amongst collectors for years.*

The Hobo (King Bee-states' rights release; 11-01-17) Directed by: Arvid E Gillstrom; Cast: Billy West, Babe Hardy, Virginia White, Leo White, Bud Ross. 2 Reels. *Synopsis:* Chaplin imitator Billy West drifts into town via freight car where he immediately sets about disrupting activities at the local passenger station. Taking a shine to the Station Manager's daughter, he insinuates himself into the operation of the place. Babe Hardy, who is the girl's beau, has numerous run-ins with the visiting upstart, which only further endears West to the Station Manager. Meanwhile, a pair of traveling car thieves hit town where automobiles, including the one belonging to the chief of police, begin disappearing. Pursued by the local constabulary and having to beat a hasty retreat, the criminals slip into the railroad station where they "exchange" their Model T for a number of railroad tickets, a deal consummated by West (who is now the ticket master).

A short distance away, Babe Hardy has just taken delivery of his brand new car. West ambles down the street in search of the automobile for which he has just traded several dozen train tickets. As it happens, he is confronted with a choice between the Model T and Babe's brand new speedster. The result of West's brief deliberations (eeny-meeny-minee-moe) is obvious and Hardy's new car disappears from the front of his home. West picks up the Station Manager's daughter and the two head off to a swell cabaret. The auto crooks miss their train and are forced to resort to their stock in trade practices to beat it out of town. Quite naturally, they happen upon Hardy's new car. Hardy and the cops, however, have not been sitting idly by and have pursued West and the girl to the club where they chase the two out of the building just in time for West to catch the crooks in act of stealing Babe's car. Naturally, Billy is given the reward for their capture and evades his own capture much to

Hardy's dismay. West forces Babe to drive the car while the "little tramp" flirts with the girl in the back seat. The girl, however favors Babe and West is rejected. With a heavy heart, Billy turns the reward over to the girl and makes his way back to the nearby railroad yard where he hops a lift on an outbound freight car. *This is the third-to-last Billy West, King Bee short filmed at the studio's Bayonne, New Jersey location. Some of the locations were poorly chosen (most obviously the exterior of the cabaret), but there are some good gags in the offering and the pace is quick. It is important to remember that this film was shot in 1917 and, as you might expect in a rather cheaply produced comedy of that period, there is a racially offensive sequence about midway through the film. The source material used for this transfer is absolutely stunning (it is one of the best 16mm prints in our collection, in fact) and although this title has been available on VHS video, it has never been run at the correct speed of 24 fps nor has the visual quality ever been as good as it is on this disc.*

Extras

The Other Fellow (Jam-Handy Organization for the Chevrolet Motor Division of General Motors Corp. 1937) No directorial credit available; Cast: Edgar Kennedy (in seven distinct roles), Jane Darwell. 1 Reel. *Synopsis:* Edgar is a frustrated motorist who views his fellow drivers as competitors and rivals for the road. Each of these "opponents" is also played by Kennedy and they are identified as 'Farmer Driver,' 'Sport Driver,' 'Truck Driver,' and 'Newlywed Driver' (there are an additional pair of hostile "Kennedys" who are not identified by name). Of course, our boy winds up in court getting a lecture from the county Judge about 'looking out for the other fellow' and we are subjected to a primer in the proper use of hand signals. *An amusing short about road rage and driving etiquette, The Other Fellow is a curious entry in the Edgar Kennedy filmography. For the real hard-core Kennedy fans, you get to hear the Irish tenor (more like baritone) in action as he belts out the old standby Sitting on Top of the World.*

'round Lancashire (Special Audio Features) We have prepared a simple homage to the English Music Hall for this dvd by highlighting a pair of acts with whom Stan would have been familiar. Gracie Fields, wife of comedian and L&H director Monty Banks (*Great Guns*) sings *I Took Me Harp to a Party* and musical comedy team Kirby and Hudson regale us with their tune *Ee By Gum it Were a Real Fine Do*.

Opening Montage This time we feature a live action sequence showing Stan and Babe London "watching" *Our Wife* at the Oceana. This film was originally shot without a track: we have applied a restored recording of the Jolson tune *There's a Rainbow 'round My Shoulder*. *Regrettably, we have had to excise the Our Wife footage used in the original film.*

Technical Specifications

NTSC - B&W - DOLBY DIGITAL STEREO
ASPECT RATIO: 4:3 - REGION FREE
FULL MENUS - DVD-R

Approximate Running Times:

(Video) approximately 80 Min. (Audio) Approximately 7 Min.

All original material Copyright 2006 by

LOOSER THAN LOOSE PUBLISHING

Restoration Notes

Ambrose's First Falsehood: Restored main titles and inter-titles recreated by Looser Than Loose and based upon original Keystone artwork. Visual source material: 16mm print.

Call the Wagon: Restored main title recreated by Looser Than Loose and based upon original Christie artwork. Visual source material: 16mm print.

Married to Order: This short has been digitally reassembled from two one-reel abridged versions. A complete video copy served as the editing template. The main title (not an authentic Reelcraft design) and intertitles were added with the text of original dialogue having been reproduced from the video model. Visual source material: 16mm prints.

The Hobo: "Restored" main title recreated by Looser Than Loose and based upon a Prime Pictures Corp. template. Though not the original release version, these titles certainly date back to the 1920s. The production credits have been replaced using a brief video clip from *The Scholar* (the attributions are identical to those of *The Hobo*). Everything from the cast title forward comes from our print. Visual source materials: 16mm print with 10 seconds (approx.) of video during credits.

Musical Scoring: Restored 78 rpm recordings have been used as background music for these shorts. Whenever possible, tunes that date from the period of the films release have been used. As a general rule, films with a release date prior to 1925 are set to music recorded originally via the acoustic process while films dating from later than that year are scored with electric records.

The audio restoration process involves scratch and hiss removal, compression, equalization and very light reverb. Additionally, a delay of 37.5 milliseconds is added to the right channel to create a more ambient "stereo" effect for surround sound systems.

Please Note: DVD-R discs are designed for newer DVD players. Looser Than Loose products are made to the highest standards and are rigorously tested before they leave our premises. In the unlikely event that a disc should prove faulty, please ship it back to us for verification with seven days of receipt. We regret we cannot replace a disc if it fails to perform on a machine manufactured before 1998.

FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT AND APPROVAL

LOOSER THAN LOOSE PUBLISHING

presents

A Pair of Obscure Babe London Photos



In this photo, taken the same day as the filming of the opening montage sequence on *The Larger World of Laurel and Hardy, Vol. II*, a pair of old friends celebrate their friendship. The setting is Stan's apartment at the Oceana Hotel. *Collection of the London Family*



Where have we seen that face before? Babe London is seen here with her father, mother and brother in this portrait taken her hometown of Des Moines, Iowa. *Collection of the London Family*

The Larger World of Laurel and Hardy Volume II

Ordering Information

\$19.99 (U.S.) + \$5.00 S&H domestic (\$7.00 foreign)

LOOSER THAN LOOSE PUBLISHING

373 South Willow #227, Manchester, NH 03103, USA

Via PayPal at www.loosertanloose.com

Ask us about combined postage