

= Gnome Motion Picture Company =

The Gnome Motion Picture Company was a film production company that is credited with three productions between 1910 and 1911 . The purpose of the company was to produce stories about gnomes . Alice in Funnyland , The Birth of the Gnomes and Alice 's New Year 's Party were all productions that were most likely never released . Announcements in trade publications ceased in January 1911 and the company treasurer , Frederick Kalmbach , was later sued by the City of New York for taxes . Of the three planned productions , two official synopses were released in The Nickelodeon . Despite no evidence of an actual release , the American Film Institute still recognizes all three films as being released in January 1911 .

= = History = =

According to The Nickelodeon the " Gnome Motion Picture Company was formed to manufacture pictures under the Meredith @-@ Jones camera patents , now owned and controlled , together with several other patents , by the Animated Picture Patents Company . " The company 's incorporation announcement stated it had \$ 30 @,@ 000 in capital and its directors were Frederick Kalmbach , James C. Hutchinson and H. Meredith Jones . The studio and offices were located at the southwest corner of Park and Tremont Ave in Bronx , New York City , New York . According to a report , Gnome purchased a Motiograph Moving Picture Machine and Hallberg 's Standard Automatic Electric Economizers for their productions .

The company 's lead actress was Mildred Hutchinson and employed its staff to produce stories about fictional gnomes , specifically for child audiences . Hutchinson was a seasoned child actress at the time of the productions who had credits working with Edison , Vitagraph and Melies the age of six . Records surrounding the release suggest that Alice in Funnyland , The Birth of the Gnomes and Alice 's New Year 's Party were never released . The venture ultimately failed and the City of New York sued Frederick Kalmbach , the company treasurer , for unpaid taxes on an assessment of \$ 3 @,@ 000 . Kalmbach said that the Gnome Motion Picture Company was no longer conducting business when the assessment was made and the case was dismissed by the judge in 1918 . The last record of the Gnome Motion Picture Company in trade publications , in both announcements and advertisements , comes from a January 14 issue of Moving Picture World which announces all three of the films would be delayed for a " few days " . The American Film Institute still identifies all three films as having been released in January 1911 by Gnome .

The Moving Picture World 's Thomas Bedding provided the best recognition of the company . Bedding wrote , " The Gnome Company seem to be working on , what to our minds , is the most interesting phase of the Christmas sentiment . They are making fairy pictures for young people . We fully expect to see other makers follow suit , when they realize what the real Christmas sentiment is , namely one of lightness , brightness , joyousness . " Advertisements for the productions show the great desire of the company to produce the three films in the December 1910 season , but interest in the Christmas and New Year 's productions would have waned by mid @-@ January 1911 with the productions still not released . Ultimately , the Gnome Motion Picture Company represents an early attempt to cater film productions to children and during the Christmas season .

= = Films = =

= = = The Birth of the Gnomes = = =

A published synopsis in The Nickelodeon reads as follows , " An old fairy realizing that her span of life is rapidly drawing to a close , brings to life a new race of people , called the Gnomes , who are governed by a new fairy . When the Gnomes appear , the old fairy informs them that their duties will be to perform acts of kindness to all people of the world . After thus admonishing them , the old fairy disappears , and the Gnomes start upon their career of well doing . Many beautiful acts of kindness

are performed in the course of their travels , which is through wonderful scenery and in strange places . In one scene the Gnomes discover an old man bemoaning his fate , and him they magically transform to a youth of great beauty . Many other acts of kindness are performed , all of great interest . Finally , the band of Gnomes discover a balloon , and the fairy queen being helped into the basket by the Gnomes , is last seen flying away watched by her adoring subjects . " The film was billed at being 1000 feet in length and having a set release for December 12 , 1910 . Though an announcement stated that the release would be delayed to " Christmas week " . No release was ever confirmed in any trade publication after it was delayed into January 1911 .

= = = Alice in Funnyland = = =

A published synopsis in The Nickelodeon reads as follows , " The night before Christmas , Alice , a child of wealth , after going through the usual form of hanging up her stocking , is put to bed by her maid . Alice falls asleep and dreams . Enter Santa Claus and Gnomes who tell Alice to follow her and they will show her part of their Funnyland . Alice follows the little people under the special protection of a policeman two foot high . The little party are seen trotting through beautiful glens and dales until they reach Funnyland . Santa Claus tells her that if she is a good girl all the animals and toys here are hers ; as Alice touches each one they come to life . The teddy bear steps out to dance with Alice . As Alice removes the cover from Doll 's box the doll dances out , a little king gives a magical entertainment , a clown is very active and all the animals and dolls do some interesting act much to the surprise and delight of little Alice . At last , tired out , Alice falls asleep reclining upon the shoulders of Teddy bear . Then we see her again back in her own little bed . It is now Christmas morning . Her maid awakens and dresses her for the great event , takes her to the drawing room where she is welcomed by her parents to find that her dream has come true . " Originally the film was billed as being released for December 19 , 1910 and then it was later claimed to be December 26 , 1910 . This release was attributed in an issue of The Nickelodeon . However , the film was not released on December 19 because an advertisement in Moving Picture World in January 1911 said that the release would be delayed for a " few days " . It is unknown , and unlikely , if the film actually was released because no other publications , ads or materials surrounding the Gnome Motion Picture Company followed .

= = = Alice 's New Year 's Party = = =

Unlike the first two productions which were the subject of published synopses , Alice 's New Year 's Party was the subject of no detail in trade publications . This production was never given an exact release date , but was later affirmed to be set for a " Christmas week " release . The American Film Institute cites four bibliographic sources ending with an advertisement in Moving Picture World in January 1911 says that the releases would be delayed for a " few days " . The film does not appear to have ever been released .