

= The Restoration ( 1910 film ) =

The Restoration is a 1910 American silent short drama produced by the Thanhouser Company . The film focuses on Hugh Logan , a single father who leaves his little girl , May , at home when he goes on a business trip . On the way to the city he is attacked by robbers and left in the road . He is found and taken in , but he suffers from amnesia . He falls in love with Maud Neals and proposes to her . Due to the prolonged absence of her father , May is taken to an orphan asylum , but she escapes . May goes to the city and ends up stopping to sleep on the doorstep of the Neals ' home . Maud finds her and takes her in , where Logan recognizes his daughter and his memory comes back . Little is known of the production credits , but the film does feature Marie Eline as the little girl . It was released on August 5 , 1910 and was met with mixed reviews . The film is presumed lost .

= = Plot = =

Though the film is presumed lost , a synopsis survives in The Moving Picture World from August 6 , 1910 . It states : " Hugh Logan is a widower who lives with his only child , a little girl , in a small cottage in the country . Logan is a commercial traveler and , as the play opens , is preparing to leave on a business trip . He takes the train to the city , where he is attacked by footpads , who leave him unconscious in the roadway . He is found by Maud Neal and her father , who are passing in an auto , and they take him into their home . There he revives , but the shock has affected his memory , and he is unable to recall anything of his past life . The kindly Neal secures him employment , and as time passes Logan falls deeply in love with Maud . He finally proposes to her and it is accepted . In the meantime , little May has been waiting in vain for her father . As no word is received from him , and she has no other relatives , Bridget , the servant , takes her to the orphan asylum , where she is compelled to make her home with other little unfortunates . May dislikes the place . In the end she escapes from it . But , gaining the city , she gets lost there and , tired and hungry , goes to sleep on a doorstep - the Neals ' . There she is found by Maud , who takes her into the house . Maud is much attracted by the child 's charms and finally decides that she must never be parted from her . She tells Logan of her decision and he objects . They quarrel . Feeling himself in the wrong , Logan returns and asks Maud 's pardon . He meets May , who recognizes her father . At the sight of her , his memory returns . Speedily he determines to retain May from out of the things of the old life , and Maud from out of the new . "

= = Production = =

The writer of the scenario is unknown , but it was most likely Lloyd Lonergan . He was an experienced newspaperman employed by The New York Evening World while writing scripts for the Thanhouser productions . Lonergan liked to use the deus ex machina dramatic technique in the conclusion of the plots and this production was no exception . The film director is unknown , but it may have been Barry O 'Neil . Film historian Q. David Bowers does not attribute a cameraman for this production , but at least two possible candidates exist . Blair Smith was the first cameraman of the Thanhouser company , but he was soon joined by Carl Louis Gregory who had years of experience as a still and motion picture photographer . The role of the cameraman was uncredited in 1910 productions . The only cast credit claimed by Bowers is that of Marie Eline as the little girl . Bowers states that most of the credits are fragmentary for 1910 Thanhouser productions . Known and more prominent members of the cast to appear in productions include the leading ladies , Anna Rosemond and Violet Heming , and the leading man was Frank H. Crane .

= = Release and reception = =

The single reel drama , approximately 1000 feet long , was released on August 5 , 1910 . Curiously , The Moving Picture World makes a reference to aphasia instead of amnesia in advertising the film , " The Friday release ( August 5 ) is a gripping heart @-@ drama , by name The Restoration . It is a

curious , a novel thing ; in a sense a study in aphasia - one of those weird plots you expect a Thanhouser picture to unfold . " The film likely had a wide national release as evidenced by numerous advertisements , including theaters in Maryland , Indiana , and Kansas . Some advertisements for The Restoration were not specific and may refer to D. W. Griffith 's 1909 The Restoration . These advertisements are noted in Oregon , Washington , and North Carolina .

The film received mixed reviews , but also criticism for several aspects of the production . The Morning Telegraph stated , " The photography at the beginning of the film is poor . It seems queer that the child should be able to escape from the orphan asylum in such an easy manner and that no search be made by the institution . It seemed very theatrical and hardly possible that the child should make the first stop at the house of the father 's intended . Why did not the producer have the child make a few more stops or have something happen to her instead of making the first stop at the woman 's house ? " The The Moving Picture World spared little coverage of the actual film in its review , noting that the emotional story might be a plausible . The New York Dramatic Mirror gave a detailed review that found the acting favorable , but found the plot and its resolution to be fantastical by stating , " The manifest absurdity of this plot lies in the adoption . No girl just betrothed would ever adopt a runaway orphan . "