

= The Girl Reporter =

The Girl Reporter is a 1910 American silent short drama produced by the Thanhouser Company . The film follows two sweethearts , May and Will , who are reporters for the Daily Wave newspaper . Will leaves the newspaper to work as a secretary to Blake , the commissioner of public works . Blake takes a bribe and blames Will and fires him . May sets out to clear his name and becomes Blake 's new secretary . May investigates and clears Will 's name while proving Blake 's corruption . The film was released on August 16 , 1910 and saw a wide national release . The film received mixed responses from critics who liked the acting , but found issues with the staging and the plausibility of the plot . The film is presumed lost .

= = Plot = =

Though the film is presumed lost , a synopsis survives in The Moving Picture World from August 20 , 1910 . It states : " May Merrill and Will Marshall are sweethearts and both reporters on the Daily Wave . Will leaves the paper to accept a position of private secretary to Blake , commissioner of public works . Shortly after Will takes up his new work Blake is threatened with exposure and punishment on his charge of accepting a bribe . In order to save himself , Blake makes it appear that Will is the guilty party . May is sent to investigate the matter for the Wave . When she discovers that Will is accused , she determines to devote all of her time to clearing him , and with this end in view , she applies for the vacant position of private secretary to Blake . Assisted by Pete , faithful office boy from the Wave , who follows her to her new position , May does some clever detective work and , clearing Will , manages to fix the guilt where it belongs , on the shoulders of Blake . "

= = 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 . 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 . Though the roles of the actors are unknown , it is likely that numerous other character roles and persons appeared in the film . Bowers states that most of the credits are fragmentary for 1910 Thanhouser productions . The cast could include either or both leading ladies of the company , Anna Rosemond and Violet Heming . One of the more prominent leading male actors was Frank H. Crane .

Though critics would reveal that the plot strained plausibility , the little known production details surrounding the film show that the Thanhouser staging was effective to one reviewer . Recently , the quality of the Thanhouser films were commended in an editorial by " The Spectator " in The New York Dramatic Mirror contained specific praise for Thanhouser productions by stating , " ... practically all other Independent American companies , excepting Thanhouser , show haste and lack of thought in their production . Crude stories are crudely handled , giving the impression that they are rushed through in a hurry - anything to get a thousand feet of negative ready for the market . Such pictures , of course , do not cost much to produce , but they are not of a class to make reputation . The Thanhouser company , alone of the Independents , shows a consistent effort to do things worthwhile ... " Bowers would note that the plot focusing on a female reporter would prove to be a popular subject and referred to The Girl Reporter 's Big Scoop by the Kalem Company and Perils of Our Girl Reporter by Niagara Film Studios @-@ Mutual . Bowers also included another production bearing the same name The Girl Reporter by the Crystal Film Company in 1913 . Another girl reporter would be featured A Columbus Day Conspiracy by the Thanhouser Company .

= = Release and reception = =

The one reel drama , approximately 970 feet long , was released on August 16 , 1910 . The film saw a wide national release , with theater advertisements in Arizona , Missouri , Indiana , Nebraska , Washington state , and Illinois . The film was also shown by the Province Theatre of Vancouver , British Columbia in Canada within days of its release .

The film received positive attention by film critics and seems to have been well @-@ staged because a reviewer of The Moving Picture News states , " This film points a moral and adorns a tale . Clean as a hound 's tooth , sweet as a nut . Full of life . The tale of the triumph of a courageous girl , backed by an inimitable office boy , and the downfall of the grafter are well planned and well rendered . The copy room set our mind flying back to our own ' cub ' days . By the way , the paper on the wall of the traction company office is somewhat weird . A good , healthy , vigorous production in every sense . " The New York Dramatic Mirror reviewer said the acting was good , but found fault with the plot itself . The reviewer states , " This film story has melodramatic interest , and the acting is good , but the means by which some of the incidents are brought about will not stand the acid test . For instance , if a political boss wants to ' shake down ' a traction company for \$ 5 @,@ 000 , would he submit the proposition in writing ? ... The scenes in the newspaper reporters ' room would have been more convincing in the first scene if the staff had been more busy in writing copy instead of waving their arms and moving about . " The term " traction company " refers to a streetcar company .