

= Poor Jake 's Demise =

Poor Jake 's Demise is a 1913 American silent short slapstick comedy film directed by Allen Curtis and featuring Max Asher and Lon Chaney . The slapstick film focuses on Jake who finds his wife in a compromising position with another man and later takes his revenge with a seltzer bottle . It is one of several slapstick comedy films Chaney made for Universal at the start of his career and is also his first credited screen role . The film was presumed lost , but a fragment of the film was discovered in England in May 2006 and restored .

= = Plot = =

Jake comes home and finds his wife and Willy Mollycoddle in a compromising position . Enraged , Jake throws Willy out of the house and scolds his wife and threatens to kill himself . Fearful that Jake will commit suicide , the wife calls the police and three officers are sent out to find Jake . Stopping at a bar before he commits suicide , Jake finds Willy who is drowning his sorrows . Jake takes his revenge on Willy with a seltzer bottle .

= = Cast = =

Max Asher as Jake Schultz
Daisy Small as Mrs. Schultz
Lon Chaney as The Dude
Louise Fazenda as Servant

= = Production = =

Poor Jake 's Demise was directed by Allen Curtis and produced by Independent Moving Pictures Company (IMP) and distributed by Universal Film Manufacturing Company . The screenplay author was not credited . The film is notable for having been the first billed appearance of Lon Chaney and perhaps the debut of Louise Fazenda .

= = Release and reception = =

The film was released on August 16 , 1913 and had viewings in Texas , North Carolina , Pennsylvania , Wisconsin , and Illinois . A contemporary review of the film in Moving Picture World described it as " simply horse play without any special appeal , though it is harmless and lacks vulgarity . "

The film was presumed lost , but a fragment of the film was discovered in England in May 2006 . It has since been restored by the Haghefilm Laboratory of Amsterdam and Lobster Films , Paris . The restored fragment is 7 minutes and 52 seconds long . In 2006 , the film was shown at the Pordenone Silent Film Festival . The film would also be shown at the 31st Cinéfest Sudbury International Film Festival on the evening of March 19 , 2011 .

In 1957 , an article by Jim Neal of the Denton Record @-@ Chronicle cited this as the first of Lon Chaney 's films . Don G. Smith 's book , Lon Chaney , Jr . : Horror Film Star , 1906 @-@ 1973 , also claims this film as Chaney 's first . Rosemary Guiley would also refer to this claim in The Encyclopedia of Vampires , Werewolves , and Other Monsters . Chronologically , this is the first released film with a confirmed credit for Chaney and also the first billed release . According to Blake , Chaney did not appear in The Honor of the Family or The Ways of Fate , two earlier films sometimes credited to him .