

= Cupid at the Circus =

Cupid at the Circus is a 1910 American silent short drama produced by the Thanhouser Company . The film is a romance with a storyline focused around a country boy who follows a circus parade to the circus grounds and becomes intent on sneaking into the show . He is discovered , but before he can be ejected , a girl asks her father to buy him a ticket of admission . Thankful , the boy gives her his pocket knife . Years later the two meet again and when he sees her using his pocket knife . He proposes and she accepts . Not too much is known for certain about the production of this film , including the writer , director and photographer credits . The circus scenes were done with special arrangement by Barnum & Bailey . The film was released on May 20 , 1910 to favorable reviews . The film is presumed lost .

= = Plot = =

Though the film is presumed lost , a surviving official synopsis was published in The Moving Picture World . It states : " Tom Wilk is a poor country lad , living alone with his stepfather , who ill @-@ treats him . Tom leaves his work one day to follow a circus parade . He is fascinated with the wonders of the parade and follows it to the circus grounds , around which he stays all morning , and is finally tempted by his great wish to see the show , to crawl under the tent . He is discovered by a circus guard , and ordered off the ground . A small girl , Lillie Lockwood , and her father come to the circus , and witness Tom 's ejection . Urged by his daughter , Lillie 's father buys Tom a ticket of admission , giving him his first happy day . In return , Tom gives Lillie , as a keepsake , his most treasured possession , his pocket knife . On returning home , Tom is severely chastised by his step @-@ father , after which he decides to run away . He walks to a neighboring town , and is there engaged as an office boy by Gates , a lawyer . After some years of faithful service , in various capacities , Tom becomes a member of the firm . Lillie obtains a position as a stenographer in their office . She and Tom do not recognize each other , until Tom accidentally sees in her hand the little knife he had given her in the long ago . He declares he had loved her through the years , and has been patiently waiting for her , so the romance that began at the circus finds a happy climax at the altar . "

= = Cast = =

Frank H. Crane as Tom Gates (adult) / alternatively Tom Wilk in the synopsis
Anna Rosemond as Lillie Lockwood (adult)

= = Production = =

The writer of the scenario is unknown , but it may have been Lloyd Lonergan . Lonergan was an experienced newspaperman still employed by The New York Evening World while writing scripts for the Thanhouser productions . He was the most important script writer for Thanhouser , averaging 200 scripts a year from 1910 to 1915 . While the director of the film is not known , two Thanhouser directors are possible . Barry O 'Neil was the stage name of Thomas J. McCarthy , who would direct many important Thanhouser pictures , including its first two @-@ reeler , Romeo and Juliet . Lloyd B. Carleton was the stage name of Carleton B. Little , a director who would stay with the Thanhouser Company for a short time , moving to Biograph Company by the summer of 1910 . Bowers does not attribute either as the director for this particular production nor does Bowers credit a cameraman . 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 two known credits in the film are for the leading players , Anna Rosemond and Frank H. Crane . Rosemond was one of two leading ladies for the first year of the company and joined in the autumn of 1909 . Crane was involved in the very beginnings of the Thanhouser Company from 1909 . Crane 's was the first

leading man of the company and acted in numerous productions before becoming a director at Thanhouser .

The setting of the film included Barnum and Bailey circus that were shot by a special arrangement with Mr. Barnum and Bailey . The date of the filming is unknown , but the 1910 route of Barnum & Bailey 's Greatest Show on Earth indicates that it the circus was in New York between March 24 through April 30 . The circus was at Madison Square Garden from March 24 through April 22 and it moved to Brooklyn , New York for April 25 through April 30 . The circus would go to Philadelphia , Washington D. C. , Baltimore , Maryland , and Wilmington , Delaware before moving back up through New Jersey on May 14 through May 18 . According to one review in the Santa Cruz Sentinel , the film showed " ... the Barnum and Bailey circus from the time they arrive at the lot until after the show . "

= = Release and reception = =

The one reel film was released on Friday May 20 , 1910 . There are different records for the length of the reel . According to Bowers , the film was 975 feet long , but one trade publication listed it as being 940 feet long . The film was advertised in theaters in Kansas , Nebraska , Pennsylvania , Missouri , Minnesota , Indiana , and California . The film was released one day before the Barnum and Bailey tent caught fire in Schenectady , New York . The May 21 fire did not result in injury or loss of life , but was caused an estimated \$ 10 @ , @ 000 in damages , equivalent to \$ 254 @ , @ 000 in 2015 .

The film was met with favorable reviews from critics . The Morning Telegraph offers general praise for the good photography and the well @ - @ told story . The Nickelodeon was equally positive and began to reflect the acting , staging and photography was up to the regular standard of the Thanhouser company . The New York Dramatic Mirror offered additional comments on the Thanhouser company 's higher standards in their productions , but gave an otherwise positive review that focused on the novelty of the circus scenes .