

= Adrift (1911 film) =

Adrift is a 1911 American silent short drama film produced by the Thanhouser Company and directed by Lucius J. Henderson . The film depicts a story of a young artist whose lack of success leads him to attempt suicide . Before he can carry out the act , his daughter follows and stops him . He confesses to his wife and she thanks her child , providing the inspiration for the artist to complete a great painting . It brings him success and he grows distant from his wife and becomes interested in another woman whom he was commissioned by . Once again saved by his daughters actions , whose crying moves the woman to break off the relationship with the artist . The artist destroys the painting and learns a moral lesson .

The film was advertised to the American churchgoer as a moral picture . The film was generally well received by critics , but the faults of story for the sake of a moral lesson was noted . Adrift , like all other American silents of the day , had no musical accompaniment , but a letter written into a trade publication provides a score for the drama . The film is presumed lost .

= = Plot = =

An official synopsis of the film was published in The Moving Picture World states : " Jack Thorne , a young artist , finds his efforts unappreciated , and he and his wife and little daughter are on the verge of starvation . The final blow comes when his last painting , on which he had built much hope , was rejected by a rich man , whom an artist chum kindly brought to the impoverished studio . Jack decides that he can struggle no longer . Unseen by his wife , he picks up his revolver , puts it in his pocket and goes out , intending to end everything . But his little daughter has watched him ; she follows him and stays his hand . Her prayers and entreaties bring him to a realization of what his rash act would mean to the two helpless ones that would be left behind . Penitent and remorseful , he accompanies his child back to their poor home . There he confesses to his wife that it was only the child 's timely interference that saved him from ending it all . The mother drops on her knees beside her child , and clasping her in her arms , raises grateful eyes to Heaven in a prayer of thankfulness . Jack , looking up suddenly , sees the beautiful group of mother and child , with a light as if from Heaven upon them . Realizing that [this] is the inspiration and subject for which he has sought in vain , he calls for them not to move , and at once begins his great painting of them , which brings him fame and wealth . "

" But with wealth , the artist becomes dissatisfied with his wife , and is infatuated with a beautiful society woman whose portrait he is painting . The couple , happy in poverty , are now rapidly drifting on the shoals of matrimonial disaster , but the child saves them . She is weeping one day when Miss Brent , the society woman , enters the room . Miss Brent , who has never seen the child before , asks the cause of her sorrow , and tries to comfort her . The child tells her , and Julia 's heart is touched . Though she has contempt [u] ously ignored the wife , she feels that she cannot ruin the life of the helpless child , even to win the artist 's love . On the spur of the moment , she writes a farewell note to Jack , and gives it to the child , saying that it will cure all her sorrow . Then she goes out of their lives forever . Jack realizes , when he sees that his child is the messenger , why Julia has broken with him . An outsider had made a sacrifice to save the future of little Marie , when he , her father , who had always loved her , had selfishly forgotten his duty . Remorsefully , he tears up the letter , and destroys the painting , not angrily , but as a symbol that he had cast the original out of his life . Then he makes peace with his wife and daughter , who are joyfully ready to forgive , and tells them that their love will keep him [on] the right path for the rest of his life , and that the lesson he has been taught will never be forgotten . "

= = Cast = =

William Garwood as the artist
Lucille Youngue as the artist 's wife
Marie Eline as the young daughter

Katherine Horn as the society woman

= = Production = =

The single reel drama was directed by Lucius J. Henderson . Henderson was an important director at the Thanhouser Company who began directing in the late autumn of 1910 . It is unknown how many film 's Henderson directed prior to the release of *Adrift* , but one prior credit *When Love Was Blind* was released two weeks prior , on January 24 , 1911 . The *New York Dramatic Mirror* on February 4 , 1914 , stated that Henderson had directed about 150 one and two reel dramas for the Thanhouser Company .

= = = Musical accompaniment = = =

Musical accompaniment for the silent films were not provided by the studios , and the Thanhouser productions were no exception . The musical program for the screenings were decided and played by the individual accompanists . At times , musical accompaniments were shared in trade journals and the musical accompaniment for *Adrift* was provided by an unnamed writer from Oklahoma in *The Moving Picture World* . The suggestion was to begin with a waltz until the friend pats the artist on the shoulder , when *All I Get is Sympathy* is played . The suggestion for *I Don 't Know Where I 'm Going* completes the scene and *Life 's A Funny Proposition* follows the artist packing up until the artist pulls out the gun . A soft hurry follows as the girl confronts her father , leading to a crescendo at the climax .

Then the accompanist returns to *Life 's A Funny Proposition* until the father is sitting down in the house . What 's the Use of Dreaming leads to *Gee , But It 's Great to Meet a Friend* with the arrival of a friend . A waltz accompanies the gallery scene until the picture is shown , leading to *Some Day When Dreams Come True* as the artist becomes famous . The introduction with the society woman is accompanied by *How Do You Do Miss Josephine* and then by *So Long Mary* as she exits . *No Place Like Home* begins the next scene until the wife recognizes the emotional distancing of her husband when *All I Ask is Love* is played . The studio scene begins with *I Love My Wife , But Oh You Kid* and leads to *Be Sweet to Me Kid* or *Next to your Mother ...* with *Nobody 's Little Girl* during the crying scene .

The unnamed accompanist was using a range of works and shortened some titles in the letter , but these works are identifiable . They include :

All I Get Is Sympathy (circa 1906) by Irving Berlin

I Don 't Know Where I 'm Going , But I 'm on My Way (1906) by Arthur Collins

Life 's a Funny Proposition After All (1904) by George M. Cohan

Gee , But It 's Great To Meet a Friend From Your Home Town (1910) by William Tracey and Jas . McGavisk

What 's the Use of Dreaming (1907) by Irving Gillette

How Do You Do Miss Josephine (1909) by Collins & Harlan

No Place Like Home may be a reference to *Home ! Sweet Home !* (1823) by Henry Bishop or *There 's No Place Like Home* (1902) by Byron G. Harlan

So Long Mary (1905) by George M. Cohan

All That I Ask of You is Love (1910) by Edgar Selden and Herbert Ingraham

I Love I Love I Love My Wife (But Oh ! You Kid !) (1909) by Jimmy Lucas and Harry Von Tilzer

Be Sweet To Me Kid (1907) by Joseph Howard

Next to Your Mother , Who do you Love ? (1909) by Irving Berlin

Nobody 's Little Girl (1907) by Jack Drislane and Theodore Morse

= = Release and reception = =

The Thanhouser Company released *Adrift* on February 3 , 1911 . The film was advertised as being of a moral picture and targeted towards the American churchgoer as an example of a film that would

change the views of the demographic towards film productions in general . The Thanhouser advertisement in the Moving Picture News said " [Adrift] is a useful film with a big , simple moral that would do much to reconcile the Church to the Motion Picture ? if the former knew that this sort of film was so much in evidence . " It saw a wide release across the United States , with showings in Pennsylvania , Indiana , Missouri , Kansas , and New Hampshire . One of the last advertisements for the film 's showing was in September 1913 .

The film was positively reviewed by critics , but contained within the reviews were often criticism on the execution of the story and plot . A review in the The Moving Picture World was positive to the moral lesson the film asserted and found the acting to be satisfactory . Walton of the The Moving Picture News criticized the type of film as invoking sudden and unnatural changes in character for the sake of a moral lesson . The child 's influence and ability to bring sense to her father was seen as cheap theatrics , but ended with the assertion that the film was not second rate for employing such theatrics . The New York Dramatic Mirror was positive , but said that the scene upon which the little girl follows her father was not believable because she was unaware of her father 's intentions to kill himself . The film is presumed lost .