

= Bertie 's Brainstorm =

Bertie 's Brainstorm is a 1911 American silent short drama film produced by the Thanhouser Company . The film focuses on Bertie Fawcett , a dim @-@ witted fop , who erroneously believes to have won the heart of May Vernon . In reality , May loves Jack and the two are set to be married , but May 's father wishes he would prove his worth by earning his own living . Bertie chances upon the letter and sets off to make a living proceeds through a number of jobs with hope to claim May as his bride . The film ends with Bertie returning and finding out that May has married Jack . Little is known about the production of the film save that William Russell played an unknown role and that the scenario was written by Lloyd F. Lonergan . The foppish character of Bertie may have been inspired by Edwin Thanhouser 's role as Bertie Nizril in Thoroughbred . Originally conceived as a series , this ultimately singular work received praise from critics . The film is presumed lost .

= = Plot and production = =

An official synopsis published in the Billboard states , " Bertie Fawcett is a dudish chap , who believes that he has won the heart of May Vernon . May , however , regards Bertie as very much of a joke , and is in love with Jack Mace , who is her ideal of manly beauty . May 's father has no objection to Jack personally , but he does not propose that the daughter he idolizes shall wed a weakling or a ne 'er do well . Therefore , he tells May in a letter that if ' that young man wants to marry you , he must show his ability by earning his own living during vacation . ' Unfortunately for Bertie , he sees the letter , and egotistically jumps to the conclusion that he is the person referred to . He starts out to make his own living , but soon finds that it is not as easy as it sounds . He is successfully a writer , a billposter , a village constable , and a living target in the baseball show , but fails to shine in any one sphere . And then to cap the climax , when he returns to claim his bride , he finds that May is married to Jack . "

The only known actor in the production for William Russell in an unknown role . A surviving film still appears to show Russell in the role of Jack at the climax of the film in which Bertie encounters the newly married couple . The other cast credits are unknown , but many Thanhouser productions are fragmentary . In late 1910 , the Thanhouser company released a list of the important personalities in their films . The list includes G.W. Abbe , Justus D. Barnes , Frank H. Crane , Irene Crane , Marie Eline , Violet Heming , Martin J. Faust , Thomas Fortune , George Middleton , Grace Moore , John W. Noble , Anna Rosemond , Mrs. George Walters . The scenario was written by Lloyd F. Lonergan and the character of Bertie may have been based on Edwin Thanhouser 's role of Bertie Nizril from Thoroughbred . The play was a three @-@ act comedy by Ralph Lumley and was first produced on February 13 , 1895 . The play would come to the Garrick Theatre in New York City on August 17 , 1896 and Edwin Thanhouser took over the role on August 29 , 1896 . A series of Bertie films was projected , but only this work was produced . Two other announced works included Bertie 's Bride and Bertie 's Baby .

= = Release and reception = =

The single reel drama , approximately 1 @,@ 000 feet long , was released on January 17 , 1911 . The film received favorable reviews from Billboard , The Moving Picture World and The New York Dramatic Mirror . Billboard would write , " The adventures of the unfortunate Bertie are such as will make the usual motion picture audience chuckle with appreciation . The film is , of course , a farce essentially . The photography is well up to the Thanhouser standard . " Walton of the Moving Picture News , would quip , " This beats the brainstorm in Les Misérables . It is a Doré nightmare . " The comedic farce of the dim @-@ witted fop proved to be successful if ultimately singular release of an expected series of films . The film is presumed lost because the film is not known to be held in any archive or by any collector .