

= The City of Her Dreams =

The City of Her Dreams is a 1910 American silent short drama produced by the Thanhouser Company . The film focuses on Ella Brown , who is sent to live with her aunt who living in a boarding house when her father heads to Alaska to prospect for gold . Ella 's life at her aunt 's home is miserable and she dreams of going to New York City . She dreams that she is in the city and has all money to buy anything which she fancies . Then she receives word that her father has returned from Alaska with a fortune and wants to give her everything she wants . The cast and staff credits are unknown , but the film includes scenes of New York City . The film was released on November 18 , 1910 and saw a wide national release . The film is presumed lost .

= = Plot = =

Though the film is presumed lost , a synopsis survives in The Moving Picture World from November 19 , 1910 . It states : " Ella Brown is the only child of a poor widower . Their home is in a small town in the Middle West , and Ella has never seen New York (City) , although she has always wanted to go there . Her father , finding times hard , decides to take a chance in the gold fields of Alaska , and when the play opens , is about to start there . He leaves Ella in the care of an aunt , a sour old person who runs a boarding house , who promptly makes a drudge out of the girl . As she has no other relatives , there is nothing for her to do except submit . Sitting in her room one evening , tired after a day 's hard work , she looks at her two treasured magazines , one showing views of her pet city and the other giving the latest fashion . The girl is filled with a longing to travel and wear pretty clothes , and falls asleep . In her dream she is transported to New York , where she finds enough money to enable her to buy all the pretty things she admires . Ella greatly enjoys her visit , and is extremely unhappy when she wakes up . But she finds that her dream will become reality before long , for her father has returned from the gold fields with a fortune and a desire to fulfill all the wishes of his pretty daughter . "

= = 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 or Lucius J. Henderson . Cameramen employed by the company during this era included Blair Smith , Carl Louis Gregory , and Alfred H. Moses , Jr. though none are specifically credited . The role of the cameraman was uncredited in 1910 productions . The cast credits are unknown , but many 1910 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 plot of the film focuses on the father who leaves during the Alaska gold rush , possibly referring to the Klondike Gold Rush or the Nome Gold Rush , both of which had concluded by the time the film was produced . The dreams of Ella were shot in New York City . Bowers states , " It is evident that Edwin Thanhouser loved New York City , for over the years he used it as a background for numerous films in scenarios which often played upon its faults , but which on balance depicted the city as the ultimate destination for those seeking culture and entertainment . Indeed , Edwin himself was to spend the final years of his life there - in an apartment on Fifth Avenue . By using a scenic background such as New York City - or Coney Island , or Niagara Falls - Thanhouser created films which had two appeals , that of a travelogue in addition to whatever merits the plot might have had . "

= = Release and reception = =

The single reel drama , approximately 1 @, @ 000 feet long , was released on November 18 , 1910 . The film had a wide national release , with advertising theaters known in Kansas , North Carolina , Oklahoma , Nebraska , Arizona , Missouri , Texas , and Pennsylvania . The only known trade publication review is by The Moving Picture World and it is a positive one . The reviewer states , " A clear presentation of the visions of a child who wanted to go to the city . The vision is , perhaps , a bit more beatific than the actual city , but it unquestionably represents the imagined city of those who have never seen it . The awakening was rude , but happily the vision becomes real when the father appears with sufficient money to take the dreamer to the city for which she has longed . The acting and mechanical work on this picture are both of excellent quality . " Another minor review of theater productions in the Arkansas City Daily Traveler said it was a good production .