

= Looking Forward (1910 film) =

Looking Forward is a 1910 American silent short drama produced by the Thanhouser Company . Adapted from James Oliver Curwood 's short story of the same name , the film follows a young chemist named Jack Goodwin . He discovers a chemical compound that puts a person into a state of sleep for a determined period of time and decides to test it upon himself . The first test is a success and Jack makes arrangements for his sleep of a hundred years , in a state similar to suspended animation . When he awakes in 2010 into a world ruled by women , he woos the female mayor . Jack joins a society to campaign for men 's rights . The society ends up before the female mayor who jails all of them , save for Jack who she proposes to . Jack accepts on the condition that men are given back their rights and she accepts . The cast and production credits of the film are not known , but Theodore Marston was not the director . The film was released on December 20 , 1910 . The film is presumed lost .

= = Plot = =

The film focuses on Jack Goodwin , a young chemistry student who has discovered a novel compound that allows a person to be put in a state of sleep for any length of time . The compound causes an effect similar to suspended animation , with no ill @-@ effects or bodily changes . Jack tests the compound on himself for a period of a week and desires to test it for a century . In preparation for this , he obtains a safety deposit vault and provides instructions to be presented before the mayor in a hundred years . Jack 's experiment works and he awakes in the year 2010 to a very different future . Transportation has been radically changed to pneumatic tubes allowing him to be transported to the mayor . The woman mayor takes an interest in him and invites her over to her home . In the intervening years , the world has become ruled by women and Jack is now out of place , but the two fall in love . Her father is an advocate for men 's rights and Jack joins their society . The group soon appears before the mayor and she sends all of them to jail through the pneumatic tube , except for Jack . She proposes to him , but Jack only consents if the rights of men would be granted . The mayor is true to her word and signs a decree to give the men their liberty . During the ceremony , she attempts to lead Jack to the altar , but Jack shows her that the man must lead . When the bridal veil is placed on Jack , he places it on his new wife .

= = Cast = =

Frank H. Crane
William Russell

= = Production = =

The scenario is adapted from James Oliver Curwood 's short story of the same name . 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 . Sometimes the directional credit is given to Theodore Marston . The apparent origin of this error is from the American Film @-@ Index 1908 ? 1915 . Film historian Q. David Bowers consulted one of the co @-@ authors of the book , Gunnar Lundquist , and confirmed that the credit of Marston was in error . Theodore Marston worked with Pathé , Kinemacolor , Vitagraph and other companies , but there is no record of Marston working with Thanhouser . This error has persisted in several works including The Complete Index to Literary Sources in Film . 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 .

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 , but for Looking Forward a dispute serves to provide one musical credit provided by Mrs. Buttery of Pennsylvania . In responding to an editorial in The Moving Picture World , Mrs. Buttery stated that " John Took Me Home to See His Mother " was played during film at some unstated point .

= = Release and reception = =

The single reel comedy , approximately 1 @, @ 000 feet long , was released on December 20 , 1910 . The New York Dramatic Mirror stated , " Here is a rather exaggerated farce with a good many laughs in it . It has for its basis recent cartoons , but has original treatment . The male members of the cast seemed to enjoy their roles , perhaps for the reason that it is a man 's picture ; the laugh seems on the ladies . " A more contemporary analysis of the film was covered in a paper by Eric Dewberry , who credits this film as Thanhouser 's first film portraying suffragists . Dewberry writes that the film presents the idea of a woman mayor , something which was not farfetched for women to find to be humorous . Despite Jack 's lack of power in the new era which he awakes to , he managed to win the heart of a powerful woman and easily restore the rights of men . Taken one way , the film seems to advance the idea that a women of power are controlled by their hearts . Dewing writes , " On the one hand it mocks many female suffrage " fighting tactics , " as suffragists , in an attempt to not appear too extremist and alienable , exploited conservative ideas of feminine virtue in order to assert their citizenship and reform desires . In the film , the man assumes effeminate passions to woo the Mayor . On the other hand , those sympathetic to the cause can see this as proof that these tactics can work in politics . The film also toys with the fears men harbored concerning the loss of power over females in public spaces , a threat to masculinity and manhood . " The film is also believed to have been the first adaptation of Curwood 's work .