

= Subway Sadie =

Subway Sadie is a 1926 American comedy @-@ drama film directed by Alfred Santell . Adapted from Mildred Cram 's 1925 short story Sadie of the Desert , the film focuses on a relationship between New York salesgirl Sadie Hermann ( Dorothy Mackaill ) and subway guard Herb McCarthy ( Jack Mulhall ) , who meet on a subway and become engaged . However , after Sadie receives a promotion , she must choose between her new job and marrying Herb . The cast also includes Charles Murray , Peggy Shaw , Gaston Glass , and Bernard Randall .

The film began production in May 1926 . Arthur Edeson served as cinematographer , shooting around Central Park in areas like casinos and nightclubs . Distributed by First National Pictures , the film premiered in New York on September 12 , 1926 . Many publications wrote positively of the film , praising its acting and Santell 's direction . Today , it remains unclear if a print of Subway Sadie has survived .

= = Plot = =

Salesgirl Sadie Hermann ( Dorothy Mackaill ) , employed in a New York fur store , has always dreamed of traveling to Paris . While riding the subway to work one morning , she meets Irish subway guard Herb McCarthy ( Jack Mulhall ) , and the two strike up a conversation before Herb eventually arranges to have them meet at Cleopatra 's Needle that Sunday .

Herb and Sadie are soon engaged to be married , but as Sadie has been promoted from saleslady to firm buyer she must cancel the wedding date to sail to Paris for the job , saddening Herb . Sadie prepares to leave , but then receives a message from Herb , which informs her that he is in the hospital as the result of an accident . Sadie chooses to visit him , and she decides to forgo her new job and marry Herb instead , Herb revealing that his father is the president of the subway company .

= = Production = =

Alfred Santell directed Subway Sadie , from a screenplay written by Adele Comandini and Paul Schofield . The pair adapted a short story by Mildred Cram entitled Sadie of the Desert , which had first been published in an October 1925 issue of The Red Book Magazine .

On May 3 , 1926 , the film entered production . Santell and Al Rockett , the film 's producer and production manager , selected the actors to appear in the film . Jack Mulhall was cast in the lead as Herb McCarthy . Although he had ridden on a subway many times , he did not take notice of the guards , so as preparation for playing the character he rode on a subway for " practically an entire day " to observe them . Mulhall said of Santell :

That man 's a great director . He can make people feel perfectly natural . He 's got what Chaplin did when he directed A Woman of Paris - he and Lewis Milestone and Mal St. Clair all have that same touch , they all belong to the new school of directors , it seems to me . They 're not so busy thinking about technique that they have actors turning into marionettes .

Chosen to play female lead Sadie Hermann , Dorothy Mackaill opined that the film would appeal to " every girl in America . " She believed that " there is not a situation in this picture which could not happen to any girl . That is one of the things I like about it . There is nothing in it that could not be true . " The rest of the cast includes Charles Murray as a driver , Peggy Shaw as Ethel , Gaston Glass as Fred Perry , and Bernard Randall portraying Brown .

Arthur Edeson served as the cinematographer for Subway Sadie , shooting the silent film in black @-@ and @-@ white . Filming took place at several locations in Central Park , including Cleopatra 's Needle and a local casino inn , which marked the first time the location had been filmed . A nightclub scene was also shot in New York . Hugh Bennett served as the film 's editor , while Al Rockett Productions produced . Rockett told Motion Picture News in June 1926 that the film had been completed . First National Pictures filed a copyright for the film on August 18 , 1926 . The finished product was seven reels long , and comprised 6 @,@ 727 feet ( 2 @,@ 050 m ) of film , running for about 70 minutes .

= = Release and reception = =

First National Pictures handled distribution for *Subway Sadie* , with the film premiering in New York on September 12 , 1926 . It received positive reviews ; a journalist for The New York Times enjoyed the film , calling it " an amusing photoplay " . Although the review branded the ending unsurprising , they described it as " nevertheless pleasing " . The Evening Independent praised the film , lauding it as " one of the cleverest and most interesting pictures that has been here this season " .

A review from Photoplay applauded Mackaill 's performance and described the film as " a true and human story " . The review in the Motion Picture Herald assessed it as " a nice little feature , nothing big , but will go over on bargain nights " , with praise directed to Mulhall 's performance . A Berkeley Daily Gazette review wrote of the film by saying " sheer brilliance rarely has been equalled " and praised the story , direction , and acting .

The Morning Telegraph 's review said that *Subway Sadie* would " delight the majority of straphangers " and that " it is what the boys call excellent box @-@ office " . The New York American review was similarly positive , describing it as " a light but charming comedy " . In the New York World , the review described the film as " a consistently decent affair " which featured good direction by Santell . A review in The Daily Mirror wrote positively of Mackaill 's performance and complimented Santell 's directing abilities , while Reading Eagle praised the performances of the leads , calling them " a stellar combination . " Not all reviews were positive ; a negative review came from The Educational Screen , whose reviewer found the film to be " pretty trite stuff " .

In June 1927 , a Southeast Missourian journalist wrote that the film had since become " very successful " . The pairing of Mulhall and Mackaill was described as " such a perfect team " that plans to have them star in many further films occurred . Films they appeared in after *Subway Sadie* include *Smile* , *Brother* , *Smile* ( 1927 ) , *Ladies ' Night in a Turkish Bath* ( 1928 ) , *Lady Be Good* ( 1928 ) , and *Children of the Ritz* ( 1929 ) . The 1933 drama *Curtain at Eight* marked the final film they appeared in together .

Screenings of *Subway Sadie* occurred as late as January 12 , 1928 . As of November 2007 , it is unclear whether a print of the film exists ; it has likely become a lost film . A poster of the film can be seen at the New York Transit Museum .