

## = The Girl of the Northern Woods =

The Girl of the Northern Woods is a 1910 American silent short drama produced by the Thanhouser Company . The film is a drama that follows Lucy Dane and Will Harding and a jealous halfbreed trapper named José . Considering Will his rival , José attempts to ambush Will , but instead shoots Will 's assistant . José then blames Will for the deed and Will is bound by a lynch mob and set to be executed . Lucy frees Will and sends the lynch mob away , but José encounters Will and the two fight . José is wounded and falls over a cliff , but Will is recaptured by the mob . From the bottom of the cliff , José calls out for help and Lucy responds to him . José confesses his crime to Lucy and she rushes to Will and prevents his execution . The film was directed by Barry O 'Neil and was released on June 3 , 1910 . An incomplete print of the film survives in the Library of Congress after its rediscovery in 1978 as part of the Dawson City Collection .

## = = Plot = =

The original synopsis of the film was published in the The Moving Picture World , it states : " This picture tells the story of Lucy Dane , a Canadian lumberman 's daughter , and of Will Harding 's love for her . Will is a worthy young surveyor and Lucy feels honored to have his love , and returns it . José , halfbreed trapper , adores Lucy and necessarily dislikes Will , whom he correctly counts his successful rival . More , he bears Will a grudge for responding to Lucy 's cries for help when he forced his attentions on her in the lonely neck of the woods . His chance to even matters with Will come shortly when he fastens on the surveyor 's responsibility for the shooting of the latter 's assistant , of which the halfbreed is himself guilty , having shot the assistant from ambush in mistake for Will . José claims he witnessed Will 's alleged deed and his falsehoods are believed by the lumbermen . Rarely are the courts resorted to in that portion of the North where these events transpired and the rough lumbermen quickly decide to lynch Will . Lucy hears of the fate intended for her sweetheart and cuts his bonds . Further , she sends the lumbermen off in the wrong direction when they set out to recapture Will . The fugitive is spied by the halfbreed , who steals up from behind and attempts to knife him . The surveyor turns just in time , and in the ensuing struggle the halfbreed is wounded and falls over a precipice . At this juncture Will is retaken by the lumbermen . "

" They are leading him to his execution , when the faithful Lucy encounters her sweetheart and whispers : ' Ask for a drink at the brook ! ' Will follows her suggestion , and on stooping to drink finds a revolver which Lucy has placed there for his use . But he is overpowered when he attempts to use the gun and despite Lucy 's effort seems doomed to die . José , the guilty halfbreed , dying at the bottom of the precipice , calls for help . His cries are heard by Lucy , who responds and finds José expiring and repentant . He wishes to clear his conscious before facing his Maker and tells Lucy that he shot Will 's assistant . He puts his confession in writing and , relieved , passes peacefully away . In the meantime the lumbermen have completed the preparations that will make an innocent man pay the penalty of another man 's crime . Already the noose is about Will 's neck and a death prayer on his lips and then , in the nick of time , Lucy arrives with the precious confession , and Will gathers his faithful sweetheart to him in the tenderest scene that has ever closed a thrilling picture . "

## = = Cast = =

Anna Rosemond as Lucy Dane  
Frank H. Crane as Will Harding

## = = Production = =

The film was directed by Barry O 'Neil , the stage name of Thomas J. McCarthy , who would direct many important Thanhouser pictures , including its first two @-@ reeler , Romeo and Juliet . The writer of the scenario is unknown , but it is presumably Lloyd Lonergan . Lonergan was an

experienced newspaperman still employed by The New York Evening World while writing scripts for the Thanhouser productions . He was the most important script writer for Thanhouser , averaging 200 scripts a year from 1910 to 1915 . Edwin Thanhouser would later recall that this production featured a minor part of a woodsman who ended up ruining the scene through excessive smoking . He described the young actor trying to focus attention on himself by smoking " like the consolidation of seven chimneys " , but ended up obscuring the action of the scene . The two known credits in the film are for the leading players , Anna Rosemond and Frank H. Crane . Rosemond was one of two leading ladies for the first year of the company . Crane was also involved in the very beginnings of the Thanhouser Company and acted in numerous productions before becoming a director at Thanhouser .

According to an article in the New Rochelle Pioneer the film was produced in New Rochelle and according to a news release the film was shot in the mountains during real blizzard weather . Bowers believes this film was shot during the winter and kept for its later June release . The winter of 1909 through 1910 contained two notable snow events that might have possibly been used in the production . A major snow storm from December 25 to December 26 , 1909 , would make its way through New York City with snow total of about 10 inches and wind gusts up to 58 mph . A second major snow event occurred three weeks later , on January 14 through 15 , 1910 , with New York City getting 15 inches of snow . Another lesser snow event , deemed a blizzard in the press , was recorded in early February .

= = Release and reception = =

The one reel drama , approximately 935 feet , was released on June 3 , 1910 . The film was originally set to be the first release distributed through the Motion Picture Distribution and Sales Company , but a dispute with Carl Laemmle pushed the date back more than a month . The film was reviewed positively in the The Moving Picture World for the real snow and weather and for being a high @-@ class drama . A shorter modern synopsis from the incomplete surviving print from the Library of Congress indicates that the film is lost after the halfbreed falls from the precipice . The film was released nationwide and theater advertisements for the film are known in Kansas , Indiana , Oklahoma , Pennsylvania , and Arizona .

The survival and rediscovery of this film was by happenstance in the Canadian gold rush town of Dawson City , in Yukon , Canada . Beginning in 1903 , the Dawson Amateur Athletic Association began showing films and the unreturned films were deposited in the Canadian Bank of Commerce and stored in the Carnegie library 's basement . The Dawson Amateur Athletic Association later converted a pool to an ice rink , but because of improper conversion the ice rink suffered from uneven temperatures in the middle of the rink . In 1929 , Clifford Thomson , then @-@ employed by the Canadian Bank of Commerce and also treasurer of the hockey association , solved the problem of the library 's stock of film and the inadequate ice rink . Thomson took 500 @,@ 000 feet of film and stacked the reels in the pool , covered the reels with boards and leveled the rink with a layer of earth . Dawson Amateur Athletic Association continued to receive new nitrate films which would later fuel the destruction of the entire complex in a fire in 1951 . The films stored under the ice rink were preserved and uncovered in 1978 when a new recreation center was being built . The Dawson City Collection films were collected and preserved , with these prints becoming the last surviving records of these studios . The surviving and incomplete print of The Girl of the Northern Woods was one of the films recovered at Dawson City .