

= Stage Struck (1911 film) =

Stage Struck is an American silent short drama film produced by the Thanhouser Company . The film focuses on a country girl who joins a traveling production after the company performs in her home town . She runs away from her home to join them and is hired , but the hard life soon takes its toll and she is unable to continue on with them . A traveling sales man buys her a ticket home and she goes home to her father . Several weeks later she receives a letter offering her a position in a New York theater production and a letter requesting her marriage from the salesman . She decides to accept his offer and become his wife . The film was released on March 3 , 1911 and was met with good reviews , but the film 's intended daydream sequence was not understood by critics . The film is presumed lost .

= = Plot = =

The official summary synopsis of the film was published in The Moving Picture World . It states , " A country girl becomes hopelessly stage struck when a company of barnstorming actors , presenting Shakespearean plays , appears in her home town . She applies for an engagement to the star of the organization and is finally offered a small part . Forbidden by her father to follow the career of her choice , she runs away and joins the company . Disillusionment soon follows . The stars dissatisfied with her attempts at acting , and the hard work and bad hotels soon tax her strength . While playing a one @-@ night stand in a little town , the company is treated to a square meal by a prosperous young drummer [Slang : for a traveling salesman] who is greatly attracted by the country girl 's youth and beauty . The company get into financial straits , and have their baggage seized . Entirely without funds they start to walk to the next town . ' Walking the ties ' is as new form of exercise for our heroine , and halfway on the journey she begs the company to go on without her , as she is too weary and sick to continue . Sitting alone and weeping bitterly on the steps of a forlorn little railway station , the girl is surprised to see , getting off the train , her new acquaintance , the drummer . He insists upon buying her a ticket for home and starting her off at once . The girl is welcomed back home by her father and when a few weeks later she receives together an offer of a New York engagement and an offer of marriage from the young drummer - she decides to accept the latter , and to appear in the future as - just a wife . "

= = Production = =

The only credit in the production is that of Marie Eline in an unknown role . A review of the film in The Moving Picture World would state the representation of the standard theatrical company was extremely good . This was not by chance , for many key persons at the Thanhouser company , including Edwin Thanhouser himself , had experience on the stage . Edwin Thanhouser knew the stage represented a great pool of acting talent , but many actors were regular citizenry , yet anonymity was the rule until towards 1912 and so on until the " star system " would come to force around 1914 .

= = Release and reception = =

The single reel drama , approximately 1 @,@ 000 feet long , was released on March 3 , 1911 . The Billboard 's reviewer gave a positive review and asserted , " Any motion picture in which the views of ' back on the stage ' are shown possesses a certain degree of interest . The ever @-@ curious public is fascinated by the alluring stories of the stage world , and any peep it is given into this realm is welcomed . Because of this , Stage Struck derives the interest it has . As far as the story is concerned there is no special recommendation for it The theatre settings are about as faithful depictions of stage scenes as are found in motion pictures . The player portraying the role of the leading actor very much exaggerates in makeup . The photography is very good . " Both the The Morning Telegraph and The New York Dramatic Mirror thought the conclusion was impossible turn

of events . The Telegraph 's reviewer wrote , " An excellent opportunity was sadly missed for the exposition of a strong lesson to the uninitiated girl or boy who dreams of a career before the footlights . How any author or producer could permit such an impossible ending is a wonder . Can any sensible person imagine a New York manager offering an inexperienced amateur a leading part in a Broadway production ? Yet this is what occurs in this tale of a stage @-@ struck miss who joins a repertoire company , is stranded , gets home through the generosity of a traveling salesman and then , with no lapse of time or experience noted , receives a letter with such an offer ! Most of the play was well put on and ably acted . The ' star ' of the theatrical company wore an abominable wig , which could be distinguished as false . More care and thought would have made this an admirable offering . " The Mirror ' reviewer stated , " The production leaves the impression of being exceedingly well done , but to the average actor the New York engagement , after forsaking her barnstorming company of players , seems somewhat of a dream . It was also startling to see her playing Ophelia after such a flat failure at the previous rehearsal where another took her place . " According to the synopsis , it is likely that this New York production in which she foresees herself on stage as Ophelia is a dream because it is prompted by the two letters she received at home .

The film is presumed lost because the film is not known to be held in any archive or by any collector .