

## = A Newsboy Hero =

A Newsboy Hero is an American silent short drama film produced by the Thanhouser Company . A standard melodrama , it has the alcoholic John Bailey return home in a drunken state . He strikes his wife and by this act drives his wife and child from the house . They go out into the snow and fall asleep , but are saved by a newspaper boy and taken home . John searches for them , but believes they are dead after reading a newspaper story and decides to commit suicide . He is saved by a member of the Salvation Army and then is reunited with his family . The only known credit in the production is that of Marie Eline as the couple 's child , Marie . The film was released on February 24 , 1911 , and it received mixed reviews by critics over its melodramatic plot , but the actors strong skills was the strongest redeeming factor in the negative reviews . The film is presumed lost .

## = = Plot = =

The film is a melodrama focuses on a young working man named John Bailey ( alternatively Jack ) . His alcoholism had caused much strife in his home and his wife , May , prays and pleads for him to stop drinking . One night he returns home in a drunken state and strikes her . His wife decides to leave with their child , Marie and goes out into the world without help . They wander in the snow and become exhausted and fall asleep . They are saved from certain death by a cripple newspaper boy named Jim Sands . He brings them back to his home and they take refuge with Jim 's poor family . Realizing his mistake , John searches for his wife and child in vain until he sees a newspaper story ( claimed to be two weeks later ) about the death of a woman and child in the storm . Believing May and Marie are dead , he decides to commit suicide by drowning himself . He is saved by Jim , a member of the Salvation Army and decides that he has to atone for his sins . Jim learns of John and May 's relation and reunites family again .

## = = Production = =

The only known credit in the production is that of Marie Eline as the child , Marie . Thanhouser films , as moral as they were , did not depict the actual violence which would be formally alluded to in the synopsis . The New York Dramatic Mirror 's reviewer would state that the male lead was drunk and stated that he did not drive them from the house . There was no depiction of any violence towards the wife or apparent mention by inter @-@ title of any physical abuse . The synopsis published describes what was not shown , but it also gives names that were not provided for audiences . Thanhouser 's advertising for the film included the tag line " And a child shall lead them " , which is a reference to Isaiah 11 : 6 .

## = = Release and reception = =

The single reel drama , approximately 1 @, @ 000 feet long , was released on February 24 , 1911 . The film had mixed reviews from critics . The New York Dramatic Mirror reviewer was thorough in the analysis of the film who did not like the production for its poor rehashed story and maudlin melodrama . The characters behavior was not logical and the series of events relied on deus ex machina elements , such as the Salvation Army suddenly decides to march down to the water 's edge , then stop and remain in the background so that they can save his soul at the opportune moment . The reviewer did state that the acting was good . The Billboard ' review agreed that the story was implausible , but agreed that the skill of the actors made it more plausible than it otherwise would have been . The Morning Telegraph and Walton of The Moving Picture News would praise the film for its pathos and heart . The film is presumed lost because the film is not known to be held in any archive or by any collector .