

= Ten Nights in a Bar Room ( 1910 film ) =

Ten Nights in a Bar Room is a 1910 American silent short drama produced by the Thanhouser Company . Adapted from the novel Ten Nights in a Bar @-@ Room and What I Saw There by Timothy Shay Arthur , the production focuses on Joe Morgan after he has become a hopeless drunkard . Often Morgan 's young daughter , Mary , comes to beg her father to return home . One day , she appears during a fight between the two men and is fatally struck by a bottle thrown by the saloon @-@ keeper . Before Mary dies she asks her father to promise to swear off alcohol and he accepts . He is reformed and becomes successful , while the saloon @-@ keeper is killed in a fight in an irony of fate . The film was released on November 4 , 1910 and met with mixed reviews . The film is presumed lost .

= = Plot = =

The work was an adaptation of Timothy Shay Arthur 's novel Ten Nights in a Bar @-@ Room and What I Saw There . The Moving Picture World synopsis states : " Despite the fact that he is a loving husband and father , Joe Morgan ruins his life by his fondness for drink and finally becomes a seemingly hopeless drunkard . He spends his time and money in the saloon kept by Slade , the man who took away Joe 's mill and largely caused his financial ruin . Slade 's saloon , when he first opened it , was well furnished , the landlord courteous and well groomed , and the customers happy and seemingly unaffected by their surroundings . But as time passed , a change for the worse was noted in everything . Probably this escaped Joe 's notice , for a sharp shot , indeed , was needed to reform him . That shock came . Joe 's only daughter , Mary , was in the habit of going to the saloon and piteously urging her father to come home . She knew that no matter how intoxicated he might be , he would never harm her . But one evening when she appeared her father and Slade had been quarreling , and the saloonkeeper threw a bottle at Morgan , who dodged . The missile struck the child , entering . The blow resulted fatally , but before Mary died , she extracted a promise from her grief @-@ stricken father that he would never drink again , a promise which he ever @-@ afterward kept . In later years Joe became wealthy and respected , and influenced by the thought of his daughter in heaven he kept in the straight and narrow path . The saloon keeper who killed Mary was never punished by the law - but through the irony of fate his taking off was much like that of Joe Morgan 's helpless child . "

= = Cast = =

Frank H. Crane as Joe Morgan  
Marie Eline as Little Mary

= = Production = =

The production was based on Ten Nights in a Bar @-@ Room and What I Saw There by Timothy Shay Arthur . The plot focused on the dangers of alcoholism and the downfall of those taken in by its effects . In the 1850s , sales of the novel were second only to Harriet Beecher Stowe 's Uncle Tom 's Cabin . The production was adapted for the stage in 1858 and while it did not perform well on Broadway , it proved to be a lasting success . Dozens of productions would cross the United States for the next sixty years and the play proved to be a major influence on the Temperance movement , resulting in the passage of temperance laws . It is likely that the writer of the scenario was Lloyd Lonergan . The film director is unknown , but it may have been Barry O 'Neil or Lucius J. Henderson . 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 . Only the roles of Frank H. Crane and Marie Eline are known . The other 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 .

= = Release and reception = =

The single reel drama , approximately 1 @,@ 000 feet long , was released on November 4 , 1910 . The film was released outside of the planned order due to a scheduling conflict . Originally The American and the Queen was planned to be released on this date , but it was instead pushed back to November 11 . The film received mixed reviews from critics , H. Jeanval of The Moving Picture News stated that the costuming and lace curtains on the windows of the home betrayed the supposed poverty of the Morgan family . Walton , also of The Moving Picture News , stated , " This title would be completely misunderstood by the majority of moving picture show attendants . Some sporadic ' reformer ' who does not know the original and who has never seen the film will fill ' space ' on the iniquity of moving pictures founded on this title . If he did see the film it has not the necessary power to grapple with the terrible reality of a too common incident in daily life . " The New York Dramatic Mirror was more picky in its wording and praise , stating : " It was to be supposed that some company would finally present this familiar drama in pictorial form , and a reviewer must feel glad that it is over , for the film doesn 't materially exalt the level of film output . " The review found the acting to be good , but found fault in the shadows of the actors fell towards a lamp instead of away from it . The New York Dramatic Mirror was not a neutral party for reviews and took a shot at the Thanhouser Company by running an article that stated : " The Selig Company announces the production of Ten Nights in a Bar Room will not be confined to one reel , but will be given all the film that it requires for proper production . This departure from the restrictive limit of 1 @,@ 000 feet gives promise that the drama will have adequate treatment . " Bowers states that the paper " was acting the role of a spoiler , for the Selig version was not released until a half year later , in June 1911 , and , except for spite , there was no reason to mention it now . "

Thomas S. Hischak , author of American Literature on Stage and Screen : 525 Works and Their Adaptations , claims that the Thanhouser production is the earliest known film adaptation of the novel . This is an error because Lubin would produce an adaptation , 700 feet in length , by October 1903 .