

= The Little Fire Chief =

The Little Fire Chief is a 1910 American silent short comedy produced by the Thanhouser Company . The film focuses on a young boy , Willie Stone , who follows a parade of firemen and attempts to join them as their leader . The firemen find it humorous and allow him to play with them . The fire alarm sounds and Willie attempts to join them , but is too slow . On their way back , Willie holds them up and his sister appears . A fireman named Jack , who has affections for the woman , convinces Willie to be relieved of his " command " by promising to call him later . Marie Eline played the role of Willie Stone , but the other two credits are claimed to have been William Garwood and Mignon Anderson . The rest of the cast and credits are unknown . The film was released on November 8 , 1910 and does not appear to have had any reviews in the usual trade publications . The film was advertised nationally and was claimed to have been popular in Vancouver , Canada . The film is presumed lost .

= = Plot = =

Though the film is presumed lost , a synopsis survives in The Moving Picture World from October 29 , 1910 . It states : " Willie Stone is only six years old , but he yearns to be a fireman . He is much impressed with the parade of firemen he sees in his hometown , so much so in fact that he basely deserts his sister on the streets to follow the ' smoke eaters . ' But Willie is only a little boy , and despite his enthusiasm , he is soon weary and footsore . His plight , added to his tears , attracts the attention of a kindly fireman who is driving with his engine back to quarters . The lad 's discomfort is soon forgotten , for the fireman gives him a ride back to the engine house . There Willie gravely applies to the captain for a position on the uniformed force , and is jokingly accepted . But he does not see the humor in it and follows the other men to the bunkroom , where he takes part in their sports . "

" But in the midst of the happiest day of his life , an alarm is sounded , and the firemen hastily slide down the pole to their duty . The new fireman , however , is not the kind to be deserted . Grabbing the helmet , the insignia of his office , he follows the others , but it is too late to go to the fire . He arrives in time to hold them up on their way back , but is captured by his weeping sister . He does not wish to leave his command , but his friend , fireman Jack Allen , finally induces him to go on the promise that he , Jack , will call later . Perhaps one reason Jack is so accommodating is because he likes [his] sister . Jack pays ardent court to her , and the flame of their affection [s] resists all of young Willie 's efforts to put it out . He didn 't really mean to try , but he assuredly poured cold water on Jack , for it was in the line of what he regarded as his duty . "

= = Cast = =

Marie Eline as Willie Stone

William Garwood as Jack Allen (unconfirmed)

Mignon Anderson as Willie Stone 's sister (unconfirmed)

In December 1912 , a notice in the The Monroe News @-@ Star announced the showing of this film and also gave the key roles of the players . Though the credits cannot be confirmed , the " Thanhouser Kid " (Marie Eline) , William Garwood and Mignon Anderson were given as the featured players . This would indicate that Garwood played Jack Allen and the sister was played by Anderson if the information is accurate .

= = Production = =

The writer of the scenario is unknown , but it was most likely Lloyd Lonergan . He was an experienced newspaperman employed by The New York Evening World while writing scripts for the Thanhouser productions . 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 . The cast credits for this production are fragmentary like many 1910 Thanhouser productions . 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 . The role of Willie Stone was played by Marie Eline . This film was another example of Eline cast in the role of a boy . Eline 's with the first such credit was as a young Italian boy in The Two Roses . Eline would also star as Hans in The Little Hero of Holland . If the cast information provided by the The Monroe News @-@ Star is accurate , it represents the earliest credit of Mignon Anderson for the Thanhouser Company . If it is not , the first known credit for would be four months later in Robert Emmet in March 1911 . The film would also be an early credit of William Garwood , who was among the most important actors at Thanhouser . He joined the company in late 1909 and remained until 1911 before returning in 1912 . His previous and first credited work with Thanhouser was Jane Eyre .

= = Release and reception = =

The single reel comedy , approximately 1 @, @ 000 feet long was released on November 8 , 1910 . The film had a wide national release , advertising theaters are known in Montana , Texas , Kansas , South Dakota , Indiana , Pennsylvania , Maryland , Louisiana , and Missouri . The film was also shown in Vancouver , Canada by the Province Theatre .

Bowers does not cite any trade publication reviews for this film , making it unlikely that the film was given attention in The New York Dramatic Mirror , The Moving Picture World or The Moving Picture News publications . The film was apparently a success at the Province Theater when it was shown in Vancouver . It is possible that non @-@ advertisement reviews of the film may exist in other publications .