

## = Delightful Dolly =

Delightful Dolly is a 1910 American silent short comedy produced by the Thanhouser Company . The film follows Marie Allen , an orphan girl who lives with her grandfather , who sees a large doll in the window of the shop . At night , she sneaks out to visit the shop with the doll , but finds it gone . She sneaks into the shop and ends up hiding in the box , to prevent from being discovered by the store clerk . She is taken to the home of the rich little girl , Daisy . After taking the doll 's clothes , Marie hides in the box as Daisy approaches . When Daisy opens the box , Marie acts like a doll . When Daisy takes a break for food , Marie secretly takes the food and drink much to Daisy 's bewilderment . Marie 's grandfather arrives at the home and explains the situation and Marie receives the doll from the family . Little is known about the production or cast of the film , but Marie Eline played the role of Marie . The film was released on October 14 , 1910 and was met with some praise in trade publications . The film is presumed lost .

## = = Plot = =

Though the film is presumed lost , a synopsis survives in The Moving Picture World from October 15 , 1910 . It states : " Little Marie Allen , a penniless orphan , lives with her granddad . Out for a walk she admires a huge doll in a shop window . That night , after her granddad has fallen asleep , she slips out to have another look at the doll . Arriving at the toy shop , she sees that the doll is gone . Unseen by anyone , she enters the store . She finds the wonderful doll and lifts it out of its box to admire it . Hearing a clerk approaching , she becomes frightened and gets into the doll box . The doll rolls under the counter . The clerk sends the errand boy off with the box , thinking it contains the doll , which has been ordered for Daisy Smythe , a rich little girl . Arriving at Daisy 's house , Marie steps out of the box as soon as the room is empty . She removes the doll clothes from the box and admires them greatly . She decides to try them on , and soon a little cap , shoes and garments are on her figure . Then she hears Daisy coming and retreats to the box . Daisy enters and takes the supposed doll from the box , falls in love with it instantly and enthusiastically works its arms and limbs . Marie lives up to her role well , imitating with stiff , jerky movements of the limbs that belong to real dolls . Then Daisy eats , and Marie grows hungry as she watches . When Daisy sets down her bowl of milk , Marie reaches over and drinks it down . Daisy is amazed when she misses the milk . Marie helps herself to all the food and Daisy 's wonderment is amusing to see . Finally Daisy falls asleep in her chair and Marie falls asleep on the floor . Here she is found by her granddad , who managed to trace her from the toy shop , and Daisy and her mother laugh so heartily over Marie 's adventure that they reward her cleverness with - the doll itself ! "

## = = Cast = =

Marie Eline as Marie Allen

The roles of Daisy Smythe and the grandfather were likely played by members of the Thanhouser Company , but the roles were uncredited and apparently not given in trade publications .

## = = 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 . Film historian Q. David Bowers does not attribute a cameraman for this production , but at least two possible candidates exist . Blair Smith was the first cameraman of the Thanhouser company , but he was soon joined by Carl Louis Gregory who had years of experience as a still and motion picture photographer . The role of the cameraman was uncredited in 1910 productions . The role of Marie was played by Marie Eline , but the other cast credits are unknown . Many 1910 Thanhouser productions have fragmentary cast credits . 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 , 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 comedy , approximately 1 @,@ 000 feet long , was released on October 14 , 1910 . The film had a wide national release , with known theaters in North Carolina , Washington , Montana , Arizona , Kansas , and Minnesota . The film was also shown in Vancouver , Canada .

The review received barely a sentence from Walton of The Moving Picture News who stated it was : " Good from A to Z. " The Moving Picture World offers little more , highlighting that the film would please children and offered a brief summary devoid of criticism or praise . The New York Dramatic Mirror gave a much more substantial treatment of the subject and stated , " This film , intended for juvenile patrons , has yet a charm for older spectators as well , because it tells a pretty story in a pretty way . ... The narrative is frankly impossible in plot , but that makes it no less entertaining to the youthful . A little make @-@ believe is relished by the best of men . The acting of the wee heroine is really wonderful ; it is spontaneous , lively , resourceful , graceful , and charming . The part of the rich girl , however , although it is capitally played , should have been entrusted to a smaller , if not to a younger , woman . The size of the actress makes the film look bizarre . The scenery is not all that might be desired , still it is passable . " The effect and usage of a living doll would be attempted again with The Spoiled Darling 's Doll , apparently with better success than Delightful Dolly .