

= Oh , What a Knight ! =

Oh , What a Knight ! is a 1910 American silent short drama produced by the Thanhouser Company . The film follows a young woman , named May Brandon , who dreams a medieval fantasy in which she is wooed , rescued and married by a loyal knight . When she awakes , she dismisses her fiancé and tells him of her dream . He decides to become the knight of her dreams and dresses as one , but the experience is unpleasant and ruins her fantasy . There are no known staff or cast credits for the film , but a surviving film still shows three actors . The film was released on October 18 , 1910 and was met with praise by The New York Dramatic Mirror . The film had a wide national release and was also shown in Canada , but is now presumed lost .

= = Plot = =

Though the film is presumed lost , a synopsis survives in The Moving Picture World from October 22 , 1910 . It states : " May Brandon is a young woman of the present day who finds that the course of true love can sometimes run too smooth . She is engaged to the man of her choice , but no one objects . In fact , there is not the slightest opposition to her marriage in any quarter . And , being a woman , she does not like it . Perhaps she would have been married in the orthodox way had it not been for a dream that she had . In her sleep she found herself a beautiful young woman , persecuted because she was loyal to the knight she had selected . Her father was obdurate , and finally practically made her a prisoner in his gloomy old castle . Her sweetheart called with a rope ladder . They escaped , and after a number of thrilling adventures were married , and presumably lived happy forever afterwards . When May awoke , she was more discontented than ever . She flouted her fiancé , and returned his ring and swore she would never marry him . But finally she told him of her dream , and he won forgiveness by promising to run away with her like the knight of her dreams . Being a man of his word , he did . But the romance all faded out of it . The adventures they passed through were not to the woman 's liking , and her experience convinced her that swashbuckling knights are as much out of date as are stagecoaches . "

= = 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 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 . A surviving film still gives the possibility of identifying three of the actors in the film .

= = Release and reception = =

The single reel drama , approximately 1 @,@ 000 feet long , was released on October 18 , 1910 . The film is known to have had a wide national release , with showing theaters in South Dakota , New Hampshire , Oklahoma , Kansas , Pennsylvania , Indiana , Maryland , Nebraska , North Carolina , Montana , and Missouri . The film was also shown in Vancouver , Canada by the Province Theatre .

The Moving Picture News and The Moving Picture World were both neutral in their review of the film , giving neither specific praise nor criticism of the production . The New York Dramatic Mirror

review was positive : " This idea has been used quite recently in an Independent film , but not nearly so effectively as in the hands of the capable Thanhouser players . They give the farcical events an air of reality that goes far to strengthen the comical results . ... She insists on her lover rigging himself up in knightly costume and carrying her off on a horse to be married . The absurdity of this business in modern times is not made as much of as might have been , but it brings plenty of laughter . The actress who played the part of the girl marred her work by turning too often to face the camera . She is very pretty and attractive but she should not permit it to appear that she is so well aware of her beauty . " Some advertisements by theaters heavily promoted the comedy aspect of the film with generic quips .