

= Gone to Coney Island and Booming Business =

Gone to Coney Island and Booming Business are two 1910 American silent short comedy productions by the Thanhouser Company . Both were released together on a single film reel on July 5 , 1910 . Gone to Coney Island is a comedy that features Coney Island , which the mere subject would make for a successful film . Booming Business may have been the very type of slapstick comedy that Edwin Thanhouser specifically said the Thanhouser Company would not produce . The productions of both films have no credits for the cast or crew , but possible candidates for these roles exist . Reviews of the films favored Gone to Coney Island , but some reviewers specifically refused to explain the plot because Coney Island subjects were deemed self @-@ explanatory . Booming Business received one detailed review in The New York Dramatic Mirror which was negative . The films are presumed lost .

= = Plots = =

Though the films are presumed lost , a synopsis of Gone to Coney Island survives in The Moving Picture World from July 9 , 1910 . It states : " Kate has been employed for a number of years as a maid in the home of Mrs. Greene . Her ' young man , ' Henry , works down at Coney [Island] . He induces Kate to leave her place and take a situation as a ticket seller at Luna Park . Kate tries to tell her mistress of her intended departure , but Mrs. Greene is busy and refuses to listen . Mrs. Greene goes out , during her absence , Kate takes French leave , leaving a note saying she is going to Coney Island . Never having visited the Island , Mrs. Greene considers it a jungle place . When she gets Kate 's note , she thinks that her duty to immediately start in pursuit of the misguided girl . Not knowing how to get to the island , she appeals to her old friend , Professor Griggs . He also is ignorant of the ways of Coney , but in turn appeals to his friend Casey , a ward politician , who of course knows the Island , and consents to act as their escort . The three set out for Coney and start on their search for Kate . The hunt is almost forgotten in the joys of looping the loop , shooting the chutes and various other diversions of the Island . When they finally find Kate , she is at her post , selling tickets at Luna . She laughs at Mrs. Greene 's fears for her safety and announces the fact that she is happily married , and presents the lucky man . In a cool Coney corner , Mrs. Greene confesses that she found Coney wasn 't as bad as it was painted , and she is going to revisit it often . "

The second production , Booming Business , was also featured in the same issue of the publication with a short summary . It states : " Jack is an industrious young businessman , who has invested in a small stock of stationery , and set up shop . He unfortunately has no customers , and his various schemes to bring trade prove extremely unlucky but mighty laughable . What they are we had better let the little picture tell . "

= = Production = =

The writer of the two scenarios is unknown , but it was most likely Lloyd Lonergan . Lonergan was an experienced newspaperman employed by The New York Evening World while writing scripts for the Thanhouser productions . He was the most important script writer for Thanhouser , averaging 200 scripts a year from 1910 to 1915 . The film director is unknown , but it may have been Barry O 'Neil . Bowers does not attribute a cameraman for this production , but 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 . Members cast may have included the leading players of the Thanhouser productions , Anna Rosemond , Frank H. Crane and Violet Heming .

The setting of Gone to Coney Island is Coney Island , a popular amusement park and picture subject . One review in The Moving Picture World went so far as to give a review that was devoid of meaning by stating , " Not much further explanation is needed . Those who have been there and those who have heard of it know what it means . Perhaps nothing further is required . " Bowers

notes that the popularity of Coney Island was itself able to make a successful film regardless of the scenario involved . Booming Business is notable because it appears to have contained slapstick comedy if The New York Dramatic Mirror review was accurate . Edwin Thanhouser specifically stated that the company would not produce slapstick comedy in an article in The Moving Picture World .

= = Release and reception = =

The two comedy productions were released on a single reel , approximately 1000 feet in total , on July 5 , 1910 . A Thanhouser Filmography Analysis , provided by Thanhouser Company Film Preservation , lists each film as comprising half a reel without further detail . The films were shown together in theaters , with known advertisements in Indiana , Kansas , Pennsylvania , and North Carolina .

Reviews for the Gone to Coney Island were positive with two positive , but altogether undetailed reviews in The Moving Picture World . A detailed review in the The Moving Picture News acknowledged that the film will have a lasting impact " as it is one of a class of pictures which can almost be shown as a repeater without hurting the reputation of the theatre . " The reviewer praised the photography and found the acting adequate , but the decision to include the marriage scene was deemed peculiar . For Booming Business the The Moving Picture World gave it two sentences which said the film was funny beyond description , but the The New York Dramatic Mirror provides a more detailed and negative review of the film by stating , " This ' comic ' is not up to the usual Thanhouser standard . In fact , it is rather silly all through , the only laughs being brought about by blows , falls , and smashing furniture . The principal character comes down to the camera and indicates the things he intends doing all through the picture , robbing it of every element of reality . He has a small store and adopts various schemes to boom business , such as giving health treatment with a magnetic battery , teaching boxing , and so on . Everything turns out badly and ends in general confusion . " Bowers notes that The New York Dramatic Mirror was not an unbiased reviewer , for the publication was slanted to the favor the Licensed companies instead of the Independents . Another window into the film is provided by an advertisement by the Amuzu in The Twin @-@ City Daily Sentinel which states the grocery @-@ man attempts to spur business in a variety of comical ways .