

Great Love Stories of the Fillums

By W. E. Hill

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The red blooded northwest. Love in the great outdoors is very big and strong and terribly vital. Shirley, one of those worthless New York debutantes, is visiting in Montana. Big Jim from the neighboring ranch is pointing out to her the timbers and the snow-capped peaks and the coyotes' trails. You can guess what's happening to Shirley. At last she is made to realize that true love blooms in the open, where men are men and a girl's best friend is her durability.



The underworld film. A love story of the underworld which pretends to be anything at all has to end up in the country with the gangster and his bride up to their neck in daisy fields, hunting rabbits' eggs and patting the ducks and chickens.



Heavy comedy. Love interest in a comic film is full of upsets. Here's Lem Gosling, hero of "The Dog Catcher's Daughter," courting Henrietta Whimper, only child of Hog Whimper, the dog catcher. In no time at all Lem is going to be chased into a vat of flour paste, forced to leap from a thirteenth story window into a baby carriage holding dynamite, which is only half of what happens before Henrietta is led to the altar.

The mystery film. It seems that Grace Griffy inherited a big house in the middle of the Adirondacks. By the stipulation of her eccentric uncle's will, Grace had to spend a night in the cellar with only a deaf caretaker and three idiot servants for company. Grace's only friend is a young insurance agent who loves her and is trying to sell her a policy. The love interest has a terrible time developing because no sooner do Grace and her boy friend get set for a nice little kiss than there is a terrible squeak and the artificial ice machine blows up, disclosing a dead man within, or a ghostly hand clutches from the dark, or something like that.



Beauty and the beast. "Puppets of Sawdust" is a circus film, and the love interest is simply heart rending. It is all about Tug, a big brute of a boss canvas man, who loves Flitter, a little equestrienne. Tug, who used to curse and spit like anything, has become as gentle and refined as a lamb, all due to Flitter. Love has purified him, so to speak. Well, sir, when Tug finds that Flitter is in love with a handsome acrobat, it seems as though his old heart would break, and great big tears plow through his makeup, big glycerine ones. Of course Tug gives Flitter up and she marries the acrobat. Self sacrifice and more tears. Close-up of Tug and a big paper rose for remembrance, with more tears dripping. Pretty cute.

The sheik stuff. "Hot Lips of the Desert" has to do with the simple love life of Lady Pettie Patmore and Ali Ben Bozo. Lady Pettie has come all the way from London on a houseboat or something, and is dreadfully bored, as so many of these society girls are nowadays. Well, Lady Pettie is so bored she can't sleep a wink. So she wanders out on the desert to count the sheiks, because an old Welsh nurse told her that if you counted the sheiks long enough you would fall asleep. Of course Ali Ben Bozo happens along just then, and ooh, such hugging and kissing as goes on right out on the desert. Months pass by. (There are swell scenes here of Ben Bozo sitting alone in the desert looking at the Sphinx, which gradually changes into Lady Pettie's face and back again.) Home again, Lady Pettie comes down with mangle, and her life is despaired of. Finally they send for Bozo, and at sight of him Lady Pettie is cured. Away they ride on a camel into the desert. Passionate, but dainty. Gets the stenogs and girl clerks in the audience very dissatisfied with the boys in the office.



Life in the A. E. F. All about Bill, the buck private, and Louette, the little French girl. O, how they do love each other! Louette is in the secret employ of Clemenceau, Joffre, and Pershing, and every evening except Sunday she has to go over into the German lines, get the Heinies all soused, and return before 9 a. m. with a lot of inside information about the kaiser. Well, sooner or later, Bill is bound to get wind of this, which he does, and, of course, thinks the very worst. (Cute closeups of Louette biting her lip to keep back the big glycerine tears.) Finally Louette gets decorated for saving the allied armies from a bomb attack, and the final fade-out shows Bill and Louette waving such a happy good-by to Clemenceau and Joffre from the deck of a transport bound for Hoboken.



Back stage stuff. "Tinsel Toils" is just a simple story of stage life as it is the world over. Nino, the acrobat, and Teenie, his partner, are at very cross purposes just because De Puyster Oglethorpe offers Teenie a rope of robin's-egg pearls. This upsets Nino terribly, and in a fit of introspection he swoons on the trapeze and breaks off all his lower teeth. This is enough to show Teenie how much she loves him. Next day she is very sassy to Oglethorpe. The ending of "Tinsel Toils" is even happier than you would expect, because as it turns out most of Nino's teeth were wisdom teeth that needed to come out anyway.