



Chaplin-In-Context

A Catalogue of Music Hall Related Films 1895 - 1930 held by the *bfi* National Film and Television Archive

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How to use the catalogue

All entries in this catalogue are held in the collection of the *bfi* National Film and Television Archive with the exception of titles in appendix 1. Titles in square brackets [] are titles supplied by later cataloguers because the originals have been lost. Viewing copies are marked 'vc' and the footage given relates to that print. Many early film prints are incomplete, in which case every effort has been made to indicate this. For films that have not yet been fully catalogued this data may not be present. All prints are 35mm unless indicated. Those marked 'vc' for viewing copy can be viewed at the British Film Institute's Stephen St premises. Please see our website www.bfi.org.uk/nftva/rvs.html for details. Nitrate viewing copies are subject to certain viewing restrictions.

The catalogue is divided into 4 basic categories as follows:

A. Films of music hall artistes where performances have been recorded more or less directly on film [for example the early sound on disc films such as BILLY MERSON IN HARRY LAUDER BURLESQUE a direct to camera performance spoofing another music hall personality]. This category also includes actuality film involving music hall personalities.

B. Films featuring music hall artistes in comedies or dramas made as original works for the Cinema [for example:, DON QUIXOTE (1923) featuring George Robey in a semi-straight role as Sancho Panzer]. This section also includes films that contain elements common in works such as the pantomime and popular theatre [for example: PIMPLE IN THE WHIP (1917) a spoof on the theatrical spectacular, THE WHIP. The Fred Evans (Pimple) spoof is clearly in the style of a music hall skit].

C. Films based on specific music hall sketches or plays. As well as British films, this will include a small selection of foreign renditions of those pieces originating in this country [for example: Lupino Lane's film ONLY ME (1929) based on the Fred Karno music hall sketch Mumming Birds].

D. Fictional films *about* the music hall of that era (i.e. up to 1930) but made later [for example: TROTTIE TRUE, CHAMPAGNE CHARLIE, SAY IT WITH FLOWERS etc.] Also, rare examples of Music hall sketches from 1895–1930 made into later comedies [for example The BAILIFFS (1932) based on a scenario by Fred Karno and featuring himself in a cameo role]. This category has been included for illustrative and historiographical reasons.

BRITISH MUSIC HALL AND VARIETY ON FILM: The holdings of the National Film and Television Archive

Category A. Films of music hall artistes where performances have been recorded more or less directly on film and actuality films involving performers.

COMIC COSTUME RACE (1896)

pc Paul's Animatograph Works

An actuality film of a race in comic costume, in progress at the annual music hall Sports fundraising event on July 14th 1896 at Herne Hill, London. We see the view across the park from one end of the racetrack as four men race towards the camera and change into pantomime costume (clowns costumes, wig, top hat and tutu) which are held in wicker baskets. The participants race back down the other end to where a crowd is gathered. vc 43ft.

Note: The participants have not been identified as yet. Many of these occasions were filmed and the films distributed commercially, including the films of the most celebrated of all music hall artistes, Dan Leno, at the event of 1902.

LUMIÈRE C.N.C. COMPILATION - PROGRAMME 1 (1896)

pc. Lumiere

Compilation of Lumiere films shot in Britain, which includes variety acts filmed outside the Empire, Leicester Square. The relevant items are: ENTRÉE DU CINÉMATOGRAPHE (1896), DANSEUSES DES RUES (1896), NÈGRES DANSANT DANS LA RUE (1896), DANSE JAVANAISE (1896), JONGLEUR JAVANAIS (1896) and LUTTEURS JAVANAIS (1896). vc 249 ft.

AGOUST FAMILY OF JUGGLERS (1898)

pc British Mutoscope and Biograph Company

Note: There are several other music hall and variety acts contained within the Biograph collections of both the NFTVA and the Netherlands Filmmuseum.

vc contained within NFM BIOGRAPH COMPILATION NO. 3

HE AND SHE (1898)

pc British Mutoscope and Biograph Company

Cast. Roma T. Roma and Frank Wood

Dramatic sketch involving an elderly man in tails stands on a cushion and quarrels with a young woman; they struggle for possession of the cushion. In the background is a clock face (26ft).

HAS HE HIT ME? (1898)

pc British Mutoscope and Biograph Company

A comic boxing display by the McNaughton brothers, Gus and Tom. vc no footage given.

SKIRT DANCER (1898)

pc unknown

Three circus performers, two of whom are wearing large skirts. No vc 30ft+

E. WILLIAMS AND HIS MERRY MEN (1899)

pc unknown

ph, Arthur Cheetham.

A seaside minstrel show, this film shows E.H.Williams' 'Merry Men', performing two sketches on a small outdoor stage in front of a wooden hut at Rhyl, Wales. Eight comedians in black face perform a minstrel comedy sketch, dressed as schoolchildren harangued by a schoolmaster. The troupe then perform as black-faced minstrels, wearing striped jackets and white flannels, with ten sitting in line on chairs, while two perform a dance routine in front of them.. The two minstrels (the cornermen) on the ends of the seated line both hold tambourines. vc 35mm 141ft

Note: Pierrot or Minstrel shows were traditional seaside entertainments and might feature artistes on tour while the London halls were closed during summer. The name of the troupe is written on the roof of a large hut with admission prices and directions for the location of the performance if it rained. This would indicate that the show was well established as a beach attraction.

[HERBERT CAMPBELL AS LITTLE BOBBY] (1899)

pc. British Mutoscope and Biograph Company

Herbert Campbell filmed in the Biograph studio which was situated at that time on the Thames Embankment. Campbell is dressed as 'Little Bobby' for the 1899-1900 Drury Lane pantomime, 'Cinderella'. He is seated at table in front of large meal, with a glass of beer beside him. He eats messily then drinks the beer in one and grins at the camera. vc 49ft.

Note: The British Biograph Company filmed celebrities from the theatre and s. They exhibited their films nationally, with their flagship show at the Palace Theatre of Varieties on Shaftesbury Avenue, which is still operating today showing Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals. Campbell was frequently partnered with Dan Leno, probably the best known of all artists, and made some other films with him which are now sadly lost. Campbell was a large man hence the comedic juxtaposition of him as a child. The film is operating on several levels, as a news item, as an advert for the pantomime and as a 'facial' comedy.

WILL EVANS, THE MUSICAL ECCENTRIC (1899)

pc. Warwick Trading Company

Will Evans, the well-known performer, tumbles on to the stage, does a series of tumbling tricks with a chair, plays a mandolin, and finally bows. vc 35mm 67ft.

Note: Will Evans was a comic performer in the circus and pantomime tradition (eccentric in this case meaning acrobatic) he also sang, danced and played. He was also a writer, he co-wrote the farce 'Tons of Money' which was filmed in 1924 starring Leslie Henson. His father, Fred Evans was a celebrated pantomime performer and Will's nephew, another Fred, was the comedian best known for his film character 'Pimple' q.v.

AMANN, THE GREAT IMPERSONATOR (1899)

pc. British Mutoscope and Biograph Company

Ludwig Amann impersonates both Emile Zola and Captain Dreyfus. vc 46ft. *Note: these quick change impressionists were a popular act in the music halls.*

AMERICAN BIOGRAPH AT THE PALACE (1899)

pc. British Mutoscope and Biograph Company

Comic scene showing a bill poster putting up ads for the American Biograph at the Palace Theatre of Varieties.

Note: The film is shot with a backdrop of a street wall covered with posters for the Mutoscope and Biograph shows.

KITTY MAHONE (1900)

pc. Gibbons' Bio-Tableaux

Lil Hawthorne sings 'Kitty Mahone' on stage (actually on a rooftop). vc 118ft. *Note: The NFTVA has an audiotape copy of the sound recording that would have accompanied this 'Phono-Bio-Tableaux' production. Lil Hawthorne was an American vaudeville singer who lived and performed in London for several years.*

LITTLE TICH AND HIS BIG BOOTS (1900)

pc. Phono-Cinéma-Théâtre

Little Tich performs his 'Big Boots' dance. Originally made with accompanying phonograph recording for the Phono-Cinéma- Théâtre at the 1900 Paris Exposition. The film and original soundtrack are reproduced in the compilation film CINEMA PARLANT 1900 (1952). 205ft. *Note: a later, 1907, film of Little Tich doing not only the Big Boots routine but other parts of his act, including a serpentine dance, is held by Lobster Films of Paris (see appendix 1.)*

TOPSY TURVEY DANCE BY THREE QUAKER MAIDENS (1900)

pc G.A. Smith

Three girls in Quaker costume dance before an American flag held by two male attendants. They retire behind the flag and apparently dance with their legs in the air; the dance is repeated, but this time the flag is dropped and the girls are seen to be holding dummy legs. Two of the girls make their exit, leaving the leader holding a pair of legs. She then makes her exit. vc 35mm 72ft.

MOTHER GOOSE NURSERY RHYMES (1902)

Pc. GAS Films

d. G A Smith

The nursery rhyme 'Hey Diddle Diddle' is acted out on a stage. vc 38ft.

Note: this was possibly from the local pantomime and contained seven scenes including Sing a Song of Sixpence, Old Mother Hubbard, Little Miss Muffet, Goosey Gander, Jack and Jill, Old Woman in a Shoe. One of many such subjects made by Smith who also shot several films shot of the Robinson Crusoe cast in the same year- see below.

[MOTHER HUBBARD](1902)

Pc. GAS Films

d. G A Smith

Curtain rises on stage. Old Mother Hubbard leads dog to cupboard, opens it and finds it bare. She rings her hands in despair. 40ft.

Note: Scene probably shot at same time as the preceding film.

[PIERROT] (1902)

Pc. GAS Films

d. G A Smith

Section from a pantomime of Robinson Crusoe. On stage a backdrop of Crusoe's hut with Robinson playing with a parrot. Friday plagued by monkey. Dame Crusoe enters with washing basket and begins to sort it hampered by Friday and the monkey. Robinson re-enters with dancing girls one of whom is waving the union jack. vc 53ft

Note: Scene probably shot at same time as the preceding two films.

LETTIE LIMELIGHT IN HER LAIR (1903) aka MISS BAYLEY

pc. GAS Films

d. G A Smith

Cast. Eva Bayley

The film shows Eva Bayley (sister in law of film pioneer G A Smith) as an actress (which she was in real life) in her dressing room preparing for a performance. It shows her making up and looking in mirror. vc 43 ft

Note: This may be an entr'acte film, designed to be screened during a theatre show to cover a costume or scene change. The film shows in a humorous way what is supposedly happening off-stage.

TWO OLD SPORTS (c 1901)

pc. GAS Films (WTC)

d. G A Smith

Two 'stage door johnnies' seated at table looking at a magazine, 'Pearson's Pantomime Favourites'. They come across a picture of an actress in tights reclining. They laugh, joke and gesture until they weep with laughter. vc 46ft.

Note: this is one of a series of films which Smith made involving these two old gents at the pantomime/. These characters are a convention in comedy re-emerging in the 'two old men in the balcony' characters in the Muppet Show.

MISTER MOON (1901)

pc. Mitchell and Kenyon

Percy Honri as an ukelele-playing moon, part of his 'Concordia' act. vc. 97ft.

Note: Probably used as an entr'acte film to cover a costume change or possibly just to advertise the show.

THE COUNTRYMAN AND THE CINEMATOGRAPH (1901)

pc. Paul's Animatograph Works

A yokel in a cinema reacts to what he sees on the screen. The yokel, wearing a white smock, is standing to one side of the screen. He imitates the dancing girl in tutu; runs away from an approaching express train and becomes annoyed when he sees himself flirting with a milkmaid. vc 19ft. (vc incomplete).

Note: as there were no purpose-built cinemas at this time the scene would presumably have taken place at a fairground cinematograph or in a .

The unsophisticated man confused by the film was a popular subject and reinforces the myth of the primitive audience response to the advent of cinema. Also used as device to instil sense of superiority in audience who were not so naive.

The DEONZO BROTHERS (1901)

pc Paul's Animatograph works.

The two Deonzo Brothers in a stage act which involves leaping in and out of barrels. Shot on a stage with rural backdrop. Fragment, ends abruptly. vc 87ft

Note: The Deonzo Brothers were American, from Hamilton Ohio. For further information on the Deonzo Brothers see article from the Harmsworth Magazine Feb-Jul 1901 reprinted in Charlie Holland 'Strange Feats and Clever Turns'. The article has detailed illustrations of the barrel-jumping act depicted in the film, including how the climax of the act turns out which is missing from the film.

MOTHER GOOSE NURSERY RHYMES (1902)

pc. GAS Films

d. G A Smith

The nursery rhyme 'Hey Diddle Diddle' is acted out on a stage. vc 38ft.

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Section from a pantomime of Robinson Crusoe. On stage a backdrop of Crusoe's hut with Robinson playing with a parrot. Friday plagued by monkey. Dame Crusoe enters with washing basket and begins to sort it hampered by Friday and the monkey. Robinson re-enters with dancing girls one of whom is waving the union jack. vc 53ft

The PURITAN MAIDEN'S UPSIDE-DOWN DANCE (1902)

pc G.A. Smith

Live stage sketch showing three dancers who go behind a cloth and wave fake legs in the air.

No vc, 20ft 17.5mm

[COLLAPSING BRIDGE] (1902)

pc. Unknown (possibly by Walter Gibbons)

Fragment of a water spectacular, possibly of 'Tally Ho!' staged at the London Hippodrome in 1901, shortly after it's opening. The camera is facing the stage with the water tank in the foreground, and with a walkway in between the tank and the stage. A melodrama is being enacted on the stage. There is a fight with muskets firing indicated by puffs of smoke. Two mounted soldiers ride down walkway and plunge into the tank. A carriage and four drives down the walkway led by man. The two front horses plunge into tank followed by the other two. The walkway collapses into the tank and water pours down from the 'hill' washing down the 'bridge' with bits of wood, flotsam and jetsam. vc 87ft.

Note: This is the only film of a music hall taken indoors during this early period.

Identification of the stage show and venue are unconfirmed pending further research – the story in this sequence doesn't match contemporary descriptions of the scenario of Tally Ho! But these are certainly Hengler's famous 'plunging horses', a famous circus act adapted for the hippodromes.

A QUARTETTE (1902)

pc. unknown

An unidentified male quartette, in comic costumes, sing a song, bow to the camera and make their exit from stage. No vc 115ft.

MISTLETOE BOUGH (1904)

pc Clarendon Film Company

Popular poem by E.T. Bayley about a bride who hides in a chest and is only discovered 15 years later. vc 480ft. *Note: This was a popular recitation piece in the music halls.*

QUICK CHANGE ACT (1906)

pc. Charles Urban Film Co.

With Percy Honri, Harry Thompson

Perci Honri, the virtuoso concertina player, and star of the show *Concordia*, changes costume behind the scenes in a . Three men are seen on a set, apparently the dressing room in a theatre. A man dressed as a devil rushes in and the three of them help him to change out of that costume into a suit. He powders his face as they rush about him. He knocks all three of them over as he grabs a concertina and races back on to the stage. vc 118ft.

Note: This was probably used as an entr'acte film by Percy Honri to cover a difficult costume change in the musical show 'Concordia'. According to Peter Honris this film was shot on Urban Bioscope camera at George Hana's studio in Bedford Street.

TWO CLOWNS (c1906)

pc G A Smith

Two clowns, one male and one female sit beside each other at a table. They light their cigarettes and the female clown blows smoke into the other clown's face. He pours her a drink, she accepts, they toast and drink the wine. He whispers in her ear, she appears shocked then she paints his nose; then his cheeks. They both laugh. The background is dark with Chinese lanterns hanging either side of the clowns. vc 145ft. *Note: This was one of G.A. Smith's experiments with Kinemacolour.*

THE SWING SONG FROM 'VERONIQUE' (1906)

pc. Gaumont

Chronophone film of a woman on a swing entwined with flowers with a man pushing. Both sing. At the end they take a bow. The setting is in a garden with brightly coloured flowers and a deckchair in the background. No vc, hand coloured 175 ft. (designed to be used with a disc not as yet located)

(UNTITLED CHRONOPHONE FILM - DRAWING ROOM) (1907)

pc. Gaumont

This has recently been identified as 'It Was a Nice Quiet Morning' and a disc located. No main title. A man sits on a chair in a drawing room in front of open French windows. He recites 'It was nice quiet morning' which tells the story of man being constantly interrupted. His wife enters and asks for money, which he grudgingly gives her. A tinker appears at the window and is kicked out and so next is an organ-grinder. A bald tradesman enters and is given some money by the singer. The singer calls his wife. They quarrel and in anger she pushes him to the floor. vc 184ft. A magnetic tape of this recitation is held.

(UNTITLED CHRONOPHONE FILM - DRUNKARD) (1907)

pc. Gaumont

A plump man with centre parting comes into poor flat. Sings song. Wife and daughter are washing clothes in background. More washing delivered. He sits on a sofa singing and drinks beer. He goes to sleep and his wife covers him with a blanket. Chalked on wall: Sope 1½, Bred 4, Hale 18/-, Rent 2/-.

Hand written on leader: "L'enfant du poupin(?) anglais". vc 184ft.

(designed to be used with a disc not as yet located)

(UNTITLED CHRONOPHONE FILM - NAPOLEON) (1907)

pc. Gaumont

No title. Filmed in the open air in a garden. A man in Napoleon-style uniform enters with a woman on each hand. He sings a song, singing first to one woman, then the other. They perform a little dance then leave, returning to take a bow. vc 162ft. (designed to be used with a disc not as yet located)

(UNTITLED CHRONOPHONE FILM - SAILOR) (1907)

pc. Gaumont

No main title. A bearded man in sailor suit enters and sings and does comic dance in an interior set. Four girls lie on the floor in the background. They get up and join in the dancing. vc 154ft.

(Designed to be used with a disc not as yet located)

(UNTITLED CHRONOPHONE FILM - STAGE) (1907)

pc. Gaumont

A man wearing a top hat and frockcoat and carrying a cane sings in front of a painted back-drop of a street. He is joined at the end of his song by two women who dance. No vc 200ft. (Designed to be used with a disc not as yet located)

CINEMATOPHONE SINGING PICTURES No. 106 (1907)

pc. Walturdaw Company

A girl sings a song in a street scene. She is persistently interrupted by two characters, one of whom bangs on the door to gain admittance. The same girl as in *By the Side of the Zuyder Zee*. vc 100 ft. (Designed to be used with a disc not as yet located).

CINEMATOPHONE SINGING PICTURES: FLY ANN (1907)

pc. Walturdaw Company

A man wearing a cowboy costume sings to a girl. vc 116 ft.

(Designed to be used with a disc not as yet located)

CINEMATOPHONE SINGING PICTURES: WHERE OH WHERE HAS MY LITTLE DOG GONE (1907)

pc. Walturdaw Company

A man in yokel costume sings the well-known song outside a public house. At the conclusion he removes his hat and wig and bows to the camera. vc 112 ft

(Designed to be used with a disc not as yet located)

CINEMATOPHONE SINGING PICTURES: BY THE SIDE OF THE ZUYDER ZEE (1907)

pc. Walturdaw Company

A girl singer wearing a bonnet and apron, mimes the words of the well-known song, some children are seen watching in the background. Possibly Fanny Fields or May Moore Duprez, who were both known for this kind of song in Dutch girl costume. vc 96 ft

(Designed to be used with a disc not as yet located)

CINEMATOPHONE SINGING PICTURES: I WOULD LIKE TO MARRY YOU (1907)

pc. Walturdaw Company

A man wearing a top hat and frock coat sings to a woman. vc 101 ft

(Designed to be used with a disc not as yet located)

[VILLAGE BLACKSMITH] (1907)

pc unknown

Title reads "Mr Greville Norman and Ipsum Favourites". A blacksmith emerges from a doorway and stands over an anvil. He is followed by two other men one of whom works on a horse shoe on the anvil as the first man recites the poem, probably the famous poem by Longfellow. vc 181 ft, incomplete.

Note: According to some records there is an accompanying disc but this has not been definitely established.

GOODBYE SWEETHEART GOODBYE (c.1907)

pc unknown

Possibly a chronophone

A man in evening dress sings "Goodbye Sweetheart, Goodbye". vc 165 ft.

Note: Disc held but uncertain if it is for this film.

THE TOREADOR SONG (c.1909)

pc unknown

Man dressed as toreador sings the song from Carmen. vc 154 ft.

Note: Disc held - uncertain if it is for this film.

[VIVAPHONE FILM] (1909)

pc Hepworth Manufacturing Company

A duet is sung by two monks in white robes and hats. They occasionally walk round in a circle before returning to their position. The backdrop is totally black. vc 168 ft.

Note: possibly something to do with the Kinoplastikon system which displayed stereoscopic images with sound.

ARE WE DOWNHEARTED ? (1909)

pc Hepworth Manufacturing Company

Hay Plumb, Chrissie White, Alma Taylor and others ebulliently singing the popular song with dancing and miming to the words. vc 178 ft

Note: A disc of the recording of the song to which the cast would have mimed has been located and a magnetic recording is held.

MUGGINS VC (1909)

pc. Cricks and Martin

d. Dave Aylott

Country boy makes good in the army and comes home a hero. vc 619ft.

Note: Muggins played by Arthur Charrington who had music hall and theatre experience.

A GAIETY DUET (1909)

pc. Gaumont Company

Two sketches from the Gaiety Theatre musical comedy 'Our Miss Gibbs' with George Grossmith Jr, Edmund Payne and Madge Melbourne. The backdrop represents the theatre. 442ft.

Note: The film uses inter-titles which were being used more commonly by this time to explain the what was going on in the act. There was a final 'Village Concert' scene, which is missing from this print.

RIGOLLO, THE MAN OF MANY FACES (1910)

pc Charles Urban Trading Company

A comedian uses a hat to portray a suffragette. Incomplete vc 11ft

Note: Possibly a quick-change act. Presumably the suffragette character' was one of many different faces rapidly portrayed in the act.

A FETE IN VENICE (c.1910)

pc. [unknown]

The Kellino family of acrobats, including Will Kellino, perform their 'Risley act'; acrobatic stunts on an open stage (with Venetian settings), and

Using a trampoline. vc 633ft.

MUSIC HALL CLOWN (c1910)

pc [unknown]

Comic dance ending with 'Little Tich' type routine with elongated feet, by an unknown impersonator. 295 ft No vc.

THEATRICAL GARDEN PARTY: GAUMONT GRAPHIC (1911)

The crowd at the garden party; a glimpse of the reconstructed eastern village, with a woman performing an Indian dance; a small girl performing a ballet dance; and Maud Allan, the actress and dancer, appearing as a boot-black. No vc 70ft

THE WORLD FAMOUS MUSICAL COMEDY ARTISTS SEYMOUR HICKS AND ELLALINE TERRISS IN A SELECTION OF THEIR DANCES (c.1912)

pc. Topical Film Company

Musical comedy performers Terriss and Hicks dance 'The Bumble Bee Story'; Terriss performs 'If I Were a Boy' from 'The Model and the Maid'; both dance to 'Alexander's Ragtime Band'. 655ft.

WHILST YOU WAIT (1912)

pc. Precision

May Moore Duprez in an entr'acte film which shows her changing costume in between acts. 123ft

WHISPER AND I SHALL HEAR (c.1913)

pc unknown

A man sings to a woman. They are both in 18th-century costume in an open air wooded setting. Other people in costume are seen in background. vc 163ft

Note: A song film designed to be projected with a phonograph accompaniment. The name 'Vocal Cinema' appears on the final frame. Music by Marietta Piccolomini (1834-1899).

HERE WE ARE AGAIN (1913)

pc Clarendon (Gifford says Cricks (C&M))

d. Edwin J Collins

A Harlequinade based comedy. A policeman dreams that two thieves he is chasing turn into Clown and Pantaloon. Two sweethearts that he turns out of the park turn into Harlequin and Columbine. All four figures vanish and reappear before him until he is completely confused. He finally wakes to find the inspector shaking him. vc 489ft

ALICE DELYSIA AND VESTA TILLEY) (1914)

pc. [unknown]

Actuality film of Alice Delysia and Vesta Tilley appearing at a Wedding reception at a large house, the bride is thought to be Vesta Tilley. The bride leaves the house with the groom and talks to guests on the lawn vc 82ft

[MUSIC HALL ACT] (1914)

pc Unknown note in records query Bamforth?

Film of a classic harlequinade. The stage set represents a street scene, a very common setting in pantomime harlequinades. Harlequin and Columbine enter and perform a dance. Enter Pantaloon and Clown (in traditional Grimaldi clown costume). Harlequin waves his magic wand or 'slapstick' to make a crate appear in their hands. They put him in it and sit on it, but he re-emerges behind them and changes the crate into one bearing the word "Sausages". The butcher emerges from his shop and a melee ensues involving him, Pantaloon and Clown, Harlequin and a police constable, using as weapons the legs of meat hanging outside his shop. The butcher is put into the crate and minced into a string of sausages, which appear from the side of the crate. The final tableau shows Columbine and Harlequin, the Policeman, and Pantaloon and Clown shaking hands. vc 35mm 90ft

HOXTON... SATURDAY JULY 3, BRITANNIA THEATRE (1920)

PC Unknown

An actuality film of street scenes in Hoxton and Shoreditch and a rare glimpse of the exterior of a music hall caught on film. The date of 1920 is given in the opening title but with no details of who made the film. The camera shows a view of the Britannia Theatre, the most famous of all the East End music halls, from across Hoxton Street in Shoreditch. The streets are crowded with people who would typify the audience for the Britannia and include a group of small boys waiting in line outside the theatre. A range of vehicles passing by include a Midland Railway Company delivery cart going past the town-hall, trams and a mixture of motor and horse-drawn vehicles. The camera passes down Old Street and passes by Charles Square. A tram goes by 'The London Apprentice' public house and the tower of St Leonard's Church, Shoreditch. vc (367ft).

The De Forest Phonofilms

In 1922 Lee de Forest developed the Phonofilm, a system for recording synchronized sound directly onto film stock. From 1925 the De Forest system was operating under licence in England. The Phonofilm was used to record stage performances such as music hall turns, light opera, recitations, and a range of musical acts. The problems of maintaining synchronisation over longer running films meant that the system did not effectively compete with systems for silent film features. The arrival of other sound on film systems created stiff competition between rival manufacturers. The De Forest system was not, ultimately, one of the survivors.

'I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU USED TO BE' - SUNG BY DICK HENDERSON (c.1925)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

vc 300 ft

DICK HENDERSON SINGING 'LOVE HER ALL THE MORE' (1926)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

vc 358 ft

JOE TERMINI - THE SOMNOLENT MELODIST (1926)

pc De Forest Phonofilms

Unedited footage. On a stage set - an English village scene – a clapper boy and another man stand. The clapperboard reads 'Termini Shot 1'. Joe Termini comes on the set and performs a comic routine involving his hat and his starched bib before playing medley of jazz tunes on the violin. He performs a more serious, slower song with (unseen) piano accompaniment. In shot 6 he plays a guitar performing 'Ain't she sweet' . In shot 4 he plays the banjo, first performing a comedy routine again involving his hat and bib. He then performs a medley of songs including 'Blue skies'. vc 817ft.

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME (1926)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

Walter Williams and Winnie Collins sing a duet. vc 486ft.

ALVIN D KEECH AND KEL KEECH NO 3 (1926)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

Music hall act by two banjo players. vc 749ft.

ALVIN D KEECH AND KEL KEECH NO 4 (1926)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

Music hall act by two banjo players. vc 887ft.

MR TEDDY ELBEN IN HIS SONG SCENA 'WHEN THAT YIDDISHER BAND PLAYED AN IRISH TUNE (1926)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

d Robert J Cullen.

Humorous scena, featuring a band, in Jewish clothing, playing a selection of tunes in Ragtime/Irish/ Yiddish styles with accompanying patter from Teddy Elben. The band are chased off stage by 'audience' throwing cabbages etc. vc 613ft.

I'VE NEVER SEEN A STRAIGHT BANANA (1926)

pc De Forest Phonofilms

Dick Henderson (' The Great Yorkshire Comedian') in 'I've never seen a Straight Banana' by Ted Waite published by Lawrence Wright Music Co. Dick Henderson behind fruit stall on stage. Opens with the song, interrupted from off stage. Tells two jokes and continues to sing the song chorus. Finally he smiles at the camera, thumbs in braces, lifts his bowler hat and the curtains close. vc 393ft.

DICK HENDERSON SINGING 'TRIPE' (1926)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

Dick Henderson sings 'Tripe'. vc 638 ft.

DICK HENDERSON IN A SONG SCENA 'LET'S ALL GO TO MARY'S HOUSE' (1926)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

Dick Henderson sings the comic song of the title. vc 407 ft

GWEN FARRAR AND BILLY MAYERL (1926)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

The pair singing 'I've got a Sweetie on the Radio'. vc 359ft.

IT'S A GREAT BIG SHAME (c 1926)

Unidentified version, of this famous Gus Elen song with the lyrics in the title cards. vc 385 ft.

Note: Almost certainly a De Forest Phonofilm.

TOPSEY TURVEY (c.1926)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

Featuring Arthur Roberts. sings 'Topsey Turvey' which he sang in the 1890's in 'HMS Irresponsible'. Includes a long sequence with the comedian miming a woman undressing in a bathing machine. vc 358ft.

VENTRILOQUIST (1927)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

An American ventriloquist with a live girl who plays the dummy. vc 299ft.

BOHEME BLUE (1927)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

Musical short. Performers unidentified. vc 790ft.

THE COFFEE STALL (1927)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

Sketch featuring Mark Lupino and Company (brother of Barry and Stanley Lupino). vc 1612ft.

AIN'T SHE SWEET (1927)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

Comedian Dick Henderson sings *Ain't She Sweet* as Chilli Bouchier dances. vc 181ft.

NERVO AND KNOX IN THEIR FAMOUS DANCE SCENE 'THE LOVE OF PHTOHTENESE (1927)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

The famous comedians of Crazy Gang fame had worked as a double act on the halls from 1919 and had both previously worked in knockabout comedy acts. This is a record of their famous sketch, The love of Phtohtenese (pronounced Hot Knees, the T being weak as in Broadcasting House). vc 328ft.

THERE ARE MORE HEAVENS THAN ONE (1927)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

Dickie Henderson wearing light coloured suit and bowler hat, he removes his hat saying he has shown his humorous side and would now like to show his serious side. He sings the song of the title then bows to camera and the curtain closes. vc 368 ft.

The LARD SONG; A SONG SCENA FEATURING TOMMY LORNE

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

A comic sketch with Scots comedian Tommy Lorne as a shopkeeper. He sings the 'Lard song' and a version of 'Comin' Thro the Rye' with references to Prohibition. Two 'Russian' women come into the shop for Cockroach destroyer and end with the competing strains of the Volga Boatsong and the titles song. vc 948ft.

THE ACTOR'S SQUAD (1927)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

Comic sketch, with Lawrence Anderson impersonating various famous actors of the day (including John Martin Harvey) in a scenario where they have to drill soldiers on Parade. vc 884ft.

THE NIGHTINGALE'S COURTSHIP (1927)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

French clowns, the Plattier Brothers. vc 482ft.

BILLY MERSON SINGING 'DESDEMONA' (c.1927)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

The famed Nottingham comedian singing humorous song, dressed in a toga and playing a prop harp. vc 372ft.

JACK HODGES, COMEDIAN IN 'TO SEE IF MY DREAMS COME TRUE' (1927)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

The comedian in a song number. vc 806ft

DIVINE AND CHARLES IN AN APACHE DANCE (1927) [On With Dance series]

PC Pioneer Film Agency

d. Harry B Parkinson

Fragment of this dance team performing the Apache dance. vc 38ft

MR GEORGE MOZART, THE FAMOUS COMEDIAN (c.1927)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms.

There is no synopsis for this film yet. vc 882ft.

YID NESBITT (1927)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

Assisted by brother Harry, the famous South African brothers in musical, vocal, verbal and terpsichorean tit-bits. vc 1021ft.

'HOT WATER' AND 'VEGETABUEL' (1928)

dir. Widgey Newman

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

Leslie Sarony sings these two songs. Direct to camera with public house backdrop. vc 840ft

THE VICTORIA GIRLS (1928)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

The Victoria girls in their famous dancing medley. vc 699ft.

CANOODLING (1928)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

Hal Jones, star of the stage revue 'Splinters' sings the song "Canoodling" from the show. vc 713 ft.

CLONK (1928)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

d. Widgey R Newman

Song performed by Leslie Sarony and Artie Ash. vc 613 ft

YOU AND I AND MY GONDOLA(1928)

pc. De Forest Phonofilms

There is no synopsis for this film yet.

ACCI-DENTAL DENTIST (1929)

PC British Sound Film Productions

d. Thomas Bentley

Ernie Lotinga recreates the character, Jimmy Jossler, which he developed on the halls for the screen. This is a two-reel slapstick set at the dentists, of which only one reel survives in the NFTVA. vc 782ft.

NOTES AND NOTIONS (1929)

pc. British International Pictures

Note: One of a number of variety shorts made by BIP featuring singer/cellist Gwen Farrar and pianist Billy Mayerl. They perform 'An Old Fashioned Girl' and 'He's a Dangerous Man'. 562ft.

THE CO-OPTIMISTS (1929)

pc New Era Films

d. Edwin Greenwood

This was the first musical comedy revue to be filmed in England and stars Stanley Holloway and Betty Chester. This was the most popular revue of the time and had been playing consistently since 1921. *Note: There was considerable cross over between performers in music halls and revue during these years and this is a good example of the genre although the film was compared unfavourably by the critics, to the stage show. The NFTVA material is incomplete and held in separate sections.*

MUSICAL MOMENTS (1929)

pc British International Pictures

Three musical numbers performed by Alma Vane, Norman Hackforth, The Harris Sisters, and Eric Randolph.

Alma Vane sings "Dixie Dawn", The Harris Sisters sing "It's Nobody's Fault But Your Own". Eric Randolph sings "The Vagabond" dressed as a tramp. Accompanied by Hackforth on the piano and dancing from he Harris Sisters.

Note: shot at Elstree studios using new RCA sound system, it may have been a test film for the new system.

Category B. Films featuring music hall artistes and themes, in comedies or dramas made as original works for the Cinema.

VICE VERSA (1910)

pc. Cricks and Martin

d. Dave Aylott

Comedy featuring a mischievous boy who steals a magic wand from a magician at a child's party. He uses the wand to reverse positions of various types of dominant and subservient people he encounters (a policeman and villain, suffragettes and labourers, a man beating a donkey, well dressed man and shoe shine boy) vc 433ft. *Note: the magic wand was a commonly used device in pantomime, deriving from Harlequin's magic bat or 'slapstick'. The use of the wand to transform or reverse character types was frequently employed and would have been understood by the audience as a familiar contrivance. The advantage of the film version was in its ability to employ trick photography rather than the less convincing stage trickery.*

HARLEQUINADE LET LOOSE (1912)

pc. Hepworth Manufacturing Company

d. Hay Plumb

Chrissie White is Columbine. With Hay Plumb.

A drunken properties man at a theatre, dreams of a Harlequinade. He dreams that Harlequin and Columbine suddenly appear and summon Clown, Pantaloon and Policeman [this first section is missing]. With Harlequin and Columbine leading the way Clown and Pantaloon get up to no good, stealing sausages from the butchers, upsetting the pastries at the bakers, disturbing a bill poster and stealing a baby all with the Policeman in pursuit. Finally they whitewash the customers of the barbers shop and race off to a lodging house where they upset the landlady by casing the furniture and pictures to behave in a peculiar manner. The culprit eventually takes refuge in the baskets from which they had emerged. Incomplete. No vc 478ft

CHARLEY SMILER JOINS THE BOY SCOUTS (1911)

pc Cricks and Martin/ d Dave Aylott

Fred Evans as Charley Smiler, a boy scout encountering various mishaps outdoors.

Tall, awkward Charley, seeing a troop of Boy Scouts on the march, wants to join them - and is accepted amid laughter. He primps proudly before his mirror in his new equipment, then rushes off to join the company on a hike. Various mishaps occur as Charley falls into puddles, ponds, beds of nettles and so on. After being chased by an irate farmer with a gun, Charley is disgusted with the ideals of scouting, and leaves the company angrily. vc 560ft. *Note: The only survivor of a series of Charley Smiler films.*

HOW PUNY PETER BECAME STRONG (1911)

pc Cricks and Martin / A. E. Coleby

Fred Evans as Peter, a weakling becomes strong after eating Standard loaf. 705ft vc.

The intertitle is in German

THE NIGHT I FOUGHT JACK JOHNSON (c.1912)

pc Hepworth Manufacturing Company / Vivaphone film

Mute Vivaphone film in which a man recounts his boxing match with a black boxer, which is shown while he sings. Mute vc 196 ft

Note: the boxer is a white man in black make-up.

I DO LIKE TO BE WHERE THE GIRLS ARE (c.1912)
pc Hepworth Manufacturing Company / Vivaphone film
Alma Taylor and Violet Hopson in suffragette and chorus girl costume.
vc 169 ft (this would have been released with a disc which doesn't survive)

FRED'S POLICE FORCE (1912)
pc Precision Films / d. unknown
Fred Evans plays Fred a rejected recruit who starts own police force. Dressed as a policeman he accepts a drink from a maid and becomes drunk and then interrupts a gambling session, helping himself to the stakes and drinks. He comes across two poachers in the woods who are scared off at his approach. 252ft vc incomplete (of 560ft)

PIMPLE AND THE SNAKE (1912)
pc. Ec-ko / d. W. P. Kellino
Cast. Fred Evans
Intertitle of a notice states that a snake has escaped from the zoo.
Pimple mistakes a lady's feather boa for the escaped snake.

PIMPLE'S MOTOR BIKE (1913)
pc. Folly Films / d. Fred Evans
Cast. Fred Evans, Joe Evans
Pimple buys a motor bike and angers people by crashing into them vc 243ft

PIMPLE'S WONDERFUL GRAMOPHONE (1913)
pc. Phoenix / d. Fred Evans
Cast Fred Evans
Pimple sets up a large box fitted with a gramophone horn and sits down inside it. A notice declares that it will play any tune asked for when a penny is dropped in the slot. Pimple answers the requests of different people who come along but is finally brought to grief by a classical request and the attentions of a drunk. vc 417ft.

PIMPLE'S COMPLAINT (1913)
pc Folly Films / d Fred Evans, Joe Evans
Cast. Fred Evans
Some boys pin a notice to Pimple's back saying he has the smallpox and he unwittingly causes a general panic. vc 207 ft incomplete of 450ft.

ADVENTURES OF PIMPLE: PIMPLE'S NEW JOB (1913)
pc Folly Films / d Fred Evans, Joe Evans
Cast. Fred Evans
Pimple's job as an incompetent bill-sticker gets him into trouble with a man who he pastes to the wall, a woman whose window he papers over and a man he fly posts while in his bath. It ends with him being arrested and stuck to a wall by three Policemen who he has soaked with paste from the top of his ladder. (358ft).

PIMPLE'S BATTLE OF WATERLOO (1913)

pc. Phoenix film company / d. Fred Evans

Cast. Fred Evans

A spoof of the *Battle of Waterloo* (1913), in which Pimple plays Napoleon.

Scenes include him crossing the Alps on a pantomime horse, an attempt on his life by suffragettes and arriving at Waterloo station. He recreates the sentry scene where Napoleon takes over the sleeping sentry's watch only to find the sentry accusing him of stealing his rifle. At the battle Napoleon and Wellington toss a coin for the first shot. The French realise they have forgotten the ammunition, and one of the soldiers goes off to a shop to buy some. A troupe of Boy Scouts charge Napoleon, who after a chaotic battle surrenders. He is taken prisoner and sent off in a boat, saying goodbye to France (actually Twickenham) forever. vc 552ft.

Note: The film is a parody of the British and Colonial super production

THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO (1913). Chaplin only once made a parody film, Chaplin's Burlesque on Carmen but never repeated the experience after a dispute with Essanay.

HOW PIMPLE SAVED KISSING CUP (1913)

pc. Phoenix / d. Fred Evans

cast: Fred Evans

Pimple saves a Lord's horse from an evil Baron and wins the race.

Fragment only (87ft).

NOBBY THE NEW WAITER (1913)

Ec-Ko Film Company

d. W P Kellino

cast. Sam T Poluski

Nobby obtains job as a waiter but his various antics soon result in dismissal. He smokes on duty, flirts with the cook, and puts on roller skates. Two customers evade paying their bill by engaging Nobby in a game of 'Blind man's Bluff'. vc 531ft.

Note: This shows some of the routines of Sam Poluski, the straight man from the Poluski Brothers comedy duo in which he performed with his brother Will.

THE MAID OF CEFN YDFA (1914) aka The Love Story of Ann Thomas

pc. William Hagggar Jr

D William Hagggar

Cast: Will and Jenny Hagggar, Will Fyffe

Ann is forced to marry a man she does not love, and the man she does love, Will, is forced into exile. vc 2305 ft incomplete.

Note: The Hagggar company were Welsh showmen turned filmmakers, regularly performed this classic melodrama. They filmed it twice and this second version stars a young Will Fyffe of 'I Belong to Glasgaw' fame, started working for the Hagggar's in 1898 as a 13 year-old. He went on to become very successful in music hall and made many films in the 1930's. In the Maid of Cefn Ydfa he plays the comic light relief, Dai Lossin.

THE ROLLICKING RAJAH (c.1914)

pc Hepworth Manufacturing Company / Vivaphone film

A man dressed as an Indian rajah sings while women dance around him.

Mute vc 208 ft.

Note: The song sheet exists for this.

THE TWO COLUMBINES (1914)

pc London Film Company

d. Harold Shaw

cast. Edna Flugrath, Christine Rayner, George Bellamy, Hubert Willis, Percy Nash.

A former dancer who has broken an ankle, never to dance again, works as a skivvy in a theatre. On Christmas eve she dances to entertain her child and dies leaving the child to be brought up by the principles, Harlequin and Columbine from the theatre company. vc 1992ft.

Note: this play within the drama is a Christmas Harlequinade, with Columbine, Harlequin, Pantaloon, Policeman and chorus girls.

CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE WORKHOUSE (1914)

pc Samuelson Film Company

d. George Pearson

Fred Paul plays the pauper, telling the workhouse inmates of his wife's starvation. From the famous poem by George R Sims. vc 580 ft incomplete

Note: this was a popular recitation piece in the s.

LIEUT. PIMPLE AND THE STOLEN SUBMARINE (1914)

pc. Folly Films

cast: Fred Evans

A Royal Navy officer thwarts foreign spies who steal a submarine vc 862ft.

LIEUTENANT PIMPLE'S DASH FOR THE POLE (1914)

pc. Folly Films /d. Fred Evans

cast: Fred Evans, Joe Evans

Pimple is sent to assess the North Pole for tax purposes, but is unable to find it until a policeman directs him to a pub of that name. vc 676ft.

PIMPLE'S CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE (1914)

pc. Folly films /d. Fred Evans

Cast Fred Evans

Fragment only. A policeman directs the Light Brigade, led by Pimple to the valley of Death inn. The Brigade dismount from their horses and enter the inn. vc 118ft. *Note: the intertitles are based on Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem, a great favourite of the recitation and the source of many parodies.*

FAT MAN ON A BICYCLE (1914) aka. W.H.O.R.K. a la Pimple

pc. Unknown /d. Fred Evans

A fat man attempts to cycle his bike down the middle of a deserted street, assisted by another man (Pimple). They are having some difficulty in keeping the bike upright and the fat man falls off. The men now stand outside a front door, a woman watches the fat man remount his bike and helps to steady him. In the street the men still have trouble but eventually set off. They make slow progress through a quiet street until they collide with a vegetable seller and with a woman and a pram, the woman, pram, two men and the bicycle end up on the floor. The woman rescues a baby from the pram and begins to kick the two men. Shot of the two men, and the bike in a street where a sign on the wall reads; 'S. BOWYER'. vc 143ft. Incomplete.

PIMPLE'S UNCLE (1915)

pc. Piccadilly Films /d. Fred Evans

cast Fred and Joe Evans

Pimple learns that his uncle intends to leave his money to his most deserving nephew. Pimple 's cousin James thinks of a way to make Pimple unpopular with his uncle but the ruse rebounds and he is cut off without a penny. vc 926ft.

PIMPLE HAS ONE (1915)

pc. Piccadilly Films

d. Fred Evans/Joe Evans

Pimple fetches wine in shopping basket but gets drunk. With camera moving from side to side as on waves, seasick Pimple tangles with policeman and boy. He fills a rich man's top hat with the soda siphon. He collapses on ground and a lady places her unloosened boot in front of him. Ashamed of her exposed ankle Pimple pulls skirt down bashfully when she raises it again he takes out a brush and whitewashes the camera and winks. vc 378ft. (beginning missing).

PIMPLE'S PART (1916)

pc. Regent Film

d. and cast Fred Evans/ Joe Evans

Pimple dresses as an actor and declaims in a restaurant. He practises at home with his wife and their silhouettes on the blind look as if he is murdering her. He is nearly arrested by a passing policeman. He retires to bed still learning his part. vc incomplete 191ft.

THE DUMMY (1916)

d. W.P. Kellino

pc. Homeland Productions

cast: Lupino Lane, Winifred Delevanti

At a house party two rivals in love for a young woman participate in a running race to determine who should marry her. At the same time two men engage in a confidence trick with a beautifying machine (1121ft).

THE MISSING LINK (1917)

pc. Homeland Productions

d. W P Kellino

cast. Lupino Lane, Winifried Delevanti, Blanche Bella, W P Kellino.

Section only. A group of school boys pile into a classroom and begin to fight for the best desk. One of the boys, Nipper, pretends to be a teacher by donning a mortar-board and waving a cane. In the headmistress's office a new boy is brought to school [the 'boy' is Kitty, Nipper's sweetheart dressed up]. The disruption in the classroom continues and the teacher attempts to cane Nipper who is blamed for the bad behaviour. Kitty and Nipper are caught helping each other with a question and she is made to wear a dunce's cap and the other boys shoot peas at her with a peashooter. vc 150 ft incomplete.

Note: W P Kellino played the 'missing link' i.e. an ape in this comedy but unfortunately this is missing from this surviving fragment.

PIMPLE IN THE WHIP (1917)

Fred Evans/Joe Evans

pc. Piccadilly

cast: Fred Evans, Joe Evans, Nina Maxwell

A parody of the stage spectacular, racing drama 'The Whip'. Lord Elpus (Pimple) is penniless and puts all of his money on The Whip, a race horse. The villain follows him to a secret trial of The Whip (represented by a pantomime horse). Later the villain goes to The Whip's stable and tries to poison him by sawing his leg off, and then his tail, but Elpus intervenes. At Madame Tussaud's Lord Elpus and the heroine see wax figures of Von Tirpitz, the Kaiser (a pig), Von O'Clock and Charles Peace. The villain locks Elpus inside, but he escapes with the help of a genie from Aladdin's lamp. Elpus, cycles after a train containing *The Whip*. As he is releasing the horse the train behind crashes into the carriage too soon, and the scene has to be repeated twice before Elpus rescues The Whip, only for the train to crash into them both. At Newmarket Lord Elpus himself rides The Whip in the race (the other competitors also being

pantomime horses) and seems certain of victory when The Whip throws him just before the winning post and refuses to move any further. vc 1302ft.

Note: 'The Whip' was a famous Drury Lane production, written by Cecil Raleigh and Henry Hamilton, which featured at its climax an actual on-stage horse race, as well as the rail crash. It was also filmed by Maurice Tourneur in the USA in 1917.

TRIPPS AND TRIBUNALS (No. 2 of THE BLUNDERS OF MR BUTTERBUN SERIES) (1918)

pc. Hagen and Double

d. Fred Rains

cast. Lupino Lane, Fred Rains

Mr Butterbun receives a request to lead an appeal tribunal for WW1 conscripts and rushes off (after much business getting dressed). The Board is shown at work judging the conscription appeals of comic characters who attempt to fool or bribe them with the usual excuses being too old, too young, engaged on important war work, widowed mothers to care for etc. Chaos ensues and the Board members go off to the races and subsequently go to a restaurant and ring up a huge bill on champagne and are kicked out. Mr Butterbun goes home very drunk to face his angry wife. vc 1708ft.

Note: this is one of only two surviving episodes of this series of 9 two reel comedies, mostly a vehicle for Lupino Lane who was already well established as a star of the halls in sketches, musical comedy and pantomime. This is indicated by the opening simultaneous inset of Lupino as himself and as Mr Butterbun. The series was issued as part of the Kinekatore Comedies which exploited a patent gimmick which distorted the film image for comic effect. The transformation was often triggered by a device such as a magic ring in the same style as other such pantomime devices including Alf's Button.

HIS BUSY DAY (No. 4 of THE BLUNDERS OF MR BUTTERBUN SERIES) (1918)

pc. Hagen and Double

d. Fred Rains

cast. Lupino Lane, Fred Rains

Comedy. No vc.

INTRODUCING THE JUGGLING DEMONS (c.1920)

pc. Unknown

Unidentified fragment depicting a juggling act with clubs, filmed in a studio. Two men dressed in demon's costume smile at the camera, then perform a juggling act with clubs. Their movements are seen in slow motion as they take turns to juggle with a set of three clubs and then in normal motion. vc 84ft. *Note: This may be an extract from a cinemagazine.*

FILM PIE SERIES(1920)

pc. Neville Bruce Film Service

d. Geoffrey Malins and Neville Bruce

cast. George McNaughton, Stella Muir, Arthur Reynolds, April Harmon, Dora Henwood.

Series of 12 comedy sketch/ variety act compilation films. Each film contains several items. Originally included: Film Pie; Eat or Drink; Have Yer Got a Tanner Bill?; Why Was Jimmy Wild?; This Story Has a Moral for Husbands Only; A Polite Reminder; You Cannot Tell a Sausage by its Skin; It Never Rains But...

vc 35mm silent 337ft

INQUISITIVE (Film Pie series) (1920)

pc Neville Bruce Film Service

Compilation of five acted gags: 'Inquisitive' - Small boy jokes with mother, combing her hair. 'A very unsuccessful competitor in the toffee apple competition' - Man in drag is handed a tin of corned beef. 'Neighbourly love' - One woman tells another that her baby's name is Bill because he came on the first of the month. 'He held his breath' - Knife throwing act and joke (with Jock McNaughton, Tony Holgate and Ida Fane). 'Nippy nippers' - Two boys joke at barber's expense.

vc 35mm 468ft

The SCHOOLMASTER'S LOVE AFFAIR (Film Pie series) (1920)

pc Neville Bruce Film Service

Comedy sketch. A young boy extorts money from a suitor of his sister. Initially rebuffed, she accepts his offer of marriage, to the relief of the young boy (pupil of schoolmaster). Incomplete. No vc 500ft

A VERY UNSUCCESSFUL COMPETITOR IN THE TOFFEE APPLE COMPETITION
(Film pie series) (1920)

pc. Robertson Cole Pictures Corporation

This seems to duplicate some of the titles in the episode entitled 'Inquisitive'. It has the title sketch, 'Neighbourly love', 'Nippy Nippers', 'He held his Breath' and also includes 'Not at the Troc' a restaurant sketch.

vc 568ft

HARLEQUINADE (1923)

pc. Stoll Film Company

d. A E Coleby

cast: George Robey as Clown,

Traditional Harlequinade with George Robey, in a pantomime played against a backcloth depicting a street scene with shops. The characters play tricks on the infuriated shopkeepers and their customers starting with the bill poster, a man carrying a load on his head, the butchers, a lady with a baby (which is replaced with the traditional sausages and turns into a baby pig. At the draper's there is some comic business with the dummies before they move onto the butcher's again, doing the Indian Rope trick with the string of sausages before falling off on to Policeman. Harlequin and Columbine are continually dancing across the stage. Harlequin blacks out the backdrop and the film ends with a Happy New Year message painted by Clown and Pantaloon. The four characters bow before the fallen curtain. Nitrate vc 356ft. (a longer reel of rushes exists as a master print, 855ft).

Note: this appears to have been filmed in a real theatre as the film shows some of the stage trap doors commonly employed by pantomime. The film also employs filmic tricks such as stop motion, disappearing items etc. We also see Robey acting the throwing of sweets to the audience (presumably children).

A LITTLE BIT OF FLUFF (1928)

d. Jess Robbins/Wheeler Dryden

pc. British International Pictures

cast: Betty Balfour, Sydney Chaplin, Nancy Rigg, Annie Esmond

A young husband's head is turned by an exotic dancer, and numerous misunderstandings result in this feature length comedy. A vehicle for Syd Chaplin and Betty Balfour based on the famous farce. vc 6979ft VHS copy only, for research viewing.

Note: apart from being a good example of musical comedy in this era this is also an opportunity to see Syd Chaplin perform some of the acrobatic routines that he learned during his time with Fred Karno's troupe.

Category C. Film based directly on music hall sketches or plays

As well as British films, this will include a selection of foreign renditions of those pieces originating in this country. This section also includes non-British films that have some particular relevance to British cinema and music hall 1895 to 1930

CHAPEAUX A TRANSFORMATION (1895) France

pc Lumiere

Felicien Trewey a performer, mainly of magic tricks, impersonates a variety of characters using a hat (61ft)

Note: this was the first film ever to be projected in England and ran for 59 weeks at the Alhambra music hall (until he lost his exclusive licence) and also illustrates the ease of inclusion of the film with other theatrical exhibition forms.

KING JOHN (1899)

pc. British Mutoscope and Biograph Company

d. W K L Dickson

Film of Her Majesty's Theatre production of King John with Herbert Beerbohm Tree, which opened on 20th September 1899. The film was shot at the open air Biograph studio on the Embankment using a theatre backdrop. The film was made in four scenes of which only part of the third survives and was clearly intended to publicise the stage production as the film was released at the Palace Theatre of Varieties and several European and British halls to coincide with the opening night. The audience apparently responded well to the film as the large format meant they got a good view of the famous actor. vc 84ft + 5ft.

LITTLE TICH AND HIS BIG BOOTS (1900) France

pc. Phono-Cinéma-Théâtre

Harry Relph, 'Little Tich' does his famous Big Boots dance. Also appears in Cinema Parlant (1952).

[PANTOMIME DAME] c 1900 France (?)

Little Tich in woman's costume in one of his parody dances of a ballerina. Against a backdrop reminiscent of other filmed dances performed by Little Tich. Possibly part of a series of his acts. Probably filmed in Paris. 68ft. no vc.

LE RAID PARIS-MONTE CARLO EN DEUX HEURES (1905) France

pc. Star Film /Georges Melies

Trick film in which members of the Folies Bergeres walk across a road to congratulate the drivers of the car in the said race. This includes Little Tich in his big boots who stands on tiptoes to light his cigarette from that of the giant Antonich. 543ft vc.

DANSE DES APACHES (1908)

PC Pathé Frères

Mistinguett and Max dearly perform the Apache Dance which they performed on stage in both London and Paris.

Note: 'The Sketch' for Oct 21 1908 there are four full-length photos of them in which she wears the same dress as in the film.

TRILBY (1914)

pc. London Film Company
d. Harold Shaw

Adaptation of the famous melodrama 'Trilby' by George du Maurier with Sir Henry Beerbohm Tree as Svengali. This work was a popular subject in the halls in a variety of forms. Section only, incomplete. vc 1324ft

A NIGHT IN THE SHOW (1915)

pc Essanay
d. Charles Chaplin.

Charlie Chaplin in film version of the Fred Karno sketch 'Mumming Birds'. He plays inebriated 'swell' who causes havoc in an English music hall. He also plays an interfering man in the balcony. vc 1587ft, 16mm.

Note: this differs from the Karno sketch in that instead of the view of the view being restricted to the audience in the boxes on the sides of the stage, the film is able to look backwards to the entire audience.

TWINKLETOES (1926) USA

pc. First National
d. Charles J Brabin

American tale of a Limehouse music hall dancer who falls for a boxer. Title part played by Colleen Moore in ludicrous fantasy Chinatown based on a 1917 story by Thomas Burke. Twinkletoes' cockney pals are improbably named 'Hank' and 'Chuck'. vc 7700ft.

ONLY ME (1929) USA

pc. Educational Film Exchange

Lupino Lane plays all 27 parts in version of famous Fred Karno sketch 'Mumming Birds' also know as a night at the English music hall' or a Night at the Show'. vc 1490ft.

MY LUCKY STAR (1933)

pc. Masquerader Productions
d. Louis Blattner/ John Harlow

cast: Carol Combe, Florence Desmond, Douglas Collins, Charlie Naughton, Jimmy Gold, Herman Darewski, Harry Tate

A maid is mistaken for a film star and eventually gets her chance on the silver screen. Stars many music hall regulars. vc 5853ft

THE OLD FASHIONED WAY (1934) USA

pc. Paramount Pictures
d. William Beaudine

W.C Fields vehicle in which he plays the Great McGonigle manager of a theatrical troupe touring the melodrama 'The Drunkard'. Fields does his famous juggling act which he had performed in British music hall many times. 2203ft 16mm

EARLY TRICK SOUND FILMS (1960)

Compilation of de Forest Phonofilms featuring Little Tich et ses Big Boots (1900) and Bransby Williams as Grandfather Smallweed from Bleak House

Note: Bransby Williams specialised in impersonations of Dickens characters. Chaplin mentions in his autobiography that he impersonated Bransby Williams as a boy. No vc 299ft 16mm.

Category D. Fictional films about the music hall of the era 1895 to 1930, but made later

It includes examples of Music hall sketches popular during the period under consideration and made into comedy films when sound came in, and for illustrative purposes, filmed music hall acts of major artistes who were known to be performing during the years 1895 to 1930.

ELSTREE CALLING (1930)

pc. British National Pictures

d. Adrian Brunel

Revue about first television broadcasts featuring many of the stars of the music hall in the 1920's including, Tommy Handley, Gordon Harker, Lily Morris, Will Fyffe. Also featured speciality acts from popular theatre, variety and cabaret such as Teddy Brown and the Charlot Girls. vc 7783ft.

I LOVE A LASSIE (1931)

pc. Gainsborough Pictures

Note: One of a series of Harry Lauder songs held by NFTVA. 275ft (16mm).

ROAMIN' IN THE GLOAMIN' (1931)

pc. Gainsborough Pictures

vc 429ft 16mm

Note: One of a series of Harry Lauder songs

I LOVE TO BE A SAILOR (1931)

pc. Gainsborough Pictures

Note: One of a series of Harry Lauder songs

NANNY (1931)

pc. Gainsborough Pictures

vc

Note: One of a series of Harry Lauder songs

THE SAFTEST OF THE FAMILY (1931)

pc. Gainsborough Pictures

Note: One of a series of Harry Lauder songs.

SOMEBODY'S WAITING FOR ME (1931)

pc. Gainsborough Pictures

Note: One of a series of Harry Lauder songs

TOBERMORY (1931)

pc. Gainsborough Pictures

Note: One of a series of Harry Lauder songs

WEE HOOSE AMONG THE HEATHER (1931)

pc. Gainsborough Pictures

Note: One of a series of Harry Lauder songs

GUS ELEN IN 'IT'S A GREAT BIG SHAME' (Pathétone Weekly) (1932)

pc. Pathe

Gus Elen singing his signature song direct to camera with street backdrop.
vc 109ft (16mm).

THE BAILIFFS (1932)

pc. Associated Talking Pictures

Flanagan and Allen in a two-reeler comedy based on a Fred Karno sketch.

Note: Includes appearance by Fred Karno himself.

JOSSER IN THE ARMY (1932)

British International Pictures

d. Norman Lee

Josser (Ernie Lotinga's character) the soldier in WW1 escapes his captors and unmasks a spy. 6992ft no vc.

JOSSER JOINS THE NAVY (1932)

British International Pictures

d. Norman Lee

Josser (played by Ernie Lotinga) is a hall porter is forced to join the navy while tracking spies. Nitrate vc in poor condition, 6271ft

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS (1933)

pc. Real Art Productions

d. John Baxter

This feature film includes several personalities recorded years after they were first famous. There are songs from Charles Coborn ("The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo"), Marie Kendall ("Just Like the Ivy") and Florrie Forde ("She's a Lassie from Lancashire", "Has Anybody Here Seen Kelly?", "Hold Your Hand Out, Naughty Boy", "Down at the Old Bull and Bush", "Oh! Oh! Antonio!", "Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag" and "It's a Long Way to Tipperary"). Also features uncredited, Tom Costello and Percy Honri. vc 6180ft.

THE GOOD COMPANIONS (1933) d. Victor Saville

pc. Gaumont British Picture Corporation/Welsh Pearson and Co.

Adaptation of J B Priestley's play concerns a defunct troupe of touring theatricals with a Pierrot act and their revitalization by arrival of new blood in the shape of Jessie Matthews and John Gielgud. Film debut of comedian Max Miller, vividly recreates lost world of provincial theatre. vc 10146ft

FALLING FOR YOU (1933) d. Robert Stevenson

pc. Gainsborough Pictures

Story of rival journalists trying to get an exclusive from an heiress in Switzerland. With Jack Hulbert and Cecily Courtneidge doing some of their comedy routines developed as musical comedy acts. vc 7720ft .

YOU MADE ME LOVE YOU (1933)

pc. British International Pictures

d. Monty Banks

cast. Stanley Lupino, Thelma Todd, James Carew, Syd Crossley.

Musical comedy version of the Taming of the Shrew.

vc 6338ft.

Note: Not so much a music hall piece but a good example of the type of musical comedy that many music hall stars found themselves in during the 1920's and which were made into films in great numbers as soon as sound came in.

SOLDIERS OF THE KING (1934)

pc. Gainsborough

d. Maurice Elvey

Musical comedy concerning a family of music hall artistes, starring Edward Everett Horton. Cicely Courtneidge shines as mother of the Marvello troupe as the Colonel forbids his lieutenant to marry a music hall star. Includes hit song 'There's something about a soldier' by Noel Gay. Other music hall personalities include Leslie Sarony and Artie Ash and Bransby Williams. vc 7083 ft.

HAPPY (1934)

pc. British International Pictures

d. Friedrich Zelnick

cast. Stanley Lupino, Will Fyffe, Harry Tate, Gus McNaughton

Musical comedy set in Paris with songs by Stanley Lupino and featuring music hall favourites. vc 7500ft.

KENTUCKY MINSTRELS (1934)

pc Real art (Julius Hagen)

d. John Baxter

Scott and Whaley, American Negro cross talking double act play minstrels in this drama of an old time minstrel who sinks to poverty before regaining popularity. vc 5939ft incomplete of 7279ft.

Note: This was adapted from the radio show of the same name written by Harry Pepper, C Denier Warren and John Watt.

MY OLD DUTCH (1934)

pc. Gainsborough Pictures

This feature film is based on the famous song/sketch by Albert Chevalier. It stars Betty Balfour, Michael Hogan with hefty support from Gordon Harker and features Florrie Forde in cameo. A pivotal scene takes place at the pictures and the action is interspersed with scenes from the missing 1915 *My Old Dutch* with Albert Chevalier himself playing Joe and Florence Turner playing Sal, Henry Edwards also appears in significant role. These scenes are on the screen in the fictitious cinema and commented on by the main protagonists as the parallel story unfolds. vc 7550ft.

OVER THE GARDEN WALL (1934)

pc. British International Pictures

d. John Daumery

cast. Bobby Howes, Margaret Bannerman, Marian Marsh.

Musical Comedy about an aunt's objections to her nephew's love for the neighbour's niece. Syd Crossley plays Podds and Bobby Howes plays Bunny. vc nitrate only, 5940ft.

EVERGREEN (1934)

pc. Gaumont British

d. Victor Saville

Story of 1909 music hall star, forced to retire, whose daughter capitalizes on her mother's success in the present day. Vehicle for Jessie Matthews and Sonnie Hale. vc 8498ft.

MUSIC HALL (1934)

pc. Twickenham Film Studios

d. John Baxter

Modern showmanship allied with retired managers experience, saves old . Includes many genuine music hall acts but mostly not of the first grade. G H Elliott sings 'Sue, Sue, Sue, I'm very much in love with you'. Macari and his Dutch performers appear as does Maurice Chester's Sixteen Performing Dogs. No vc. 6097ft, incomplete originally 6592ft. (16mm print in *bfi* distribution Library)

THOSE WERE THE DAYS (1934)

pc. British International Pictures
d. Thomas Bentley

Cast Will Hay, John Mills, Iris Hoey, Angela Baddeley.
Feature film recreating the atmosphere of old-time music hall with notable success. Includes Will Hay, Lily Morris, actor playing G.H. Elliott, doing Lily of Laguna, Harry Bedford and Sam Curtis. vc 7221ft.

BOOTS! BOOTS! (1934)

pc. Blakeley's Productions
d. Bert Tracey

Musical comedy starring George Formby (junior) in his first film, as a boot-boy at a big hotel. He falls for the scullery maid who turns out to be the long-lost niece of wealthy residents at the hotel. Formby uses routines developed in his act which he inherited from his father after his death in 1921. vc 6046 ft. shorter 1936 version originally 80mins. NFTVA print is from damaged original material with sound synch problems.

ARTHUR PRINCE AND JIM IN A VENTILOQUIAL SKETCH (1935)

pc Conservative and Unionist Film Association

Arthur Prince dressed as a navy officer is sitting with his dummy dressed as a sailor. As he talks with the dummy he smokes a cigar. He tells the dummy that he must have a career, to which the dummy says he wants to be a politician. The dummy says he would make promises to get into Parliament - free houses, train rides etc. and make the banks pay. Arthur Prince explains that the money in the banks belong to people and that people shouldn't be deceived by governmental promises. The dummy then talks about the Grand National and says he lost because he hadn't studied the horse's form. Arthur Prince tells the dummy that he should study governmental form before thinking of entering politics. Party political film finishes with words "Support the National Government". vc 795 ft.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER (1935) d. John Baxter

pc. Baxter and Barter Productions
d. John Baxter

Cast: George Robey, Eve Lister, Horace Hodges.

Vehicle for George Robey who stars as millionaire sausage king who finds treasure in rented baronial hall. vc of 780ft, incomplete master material 2700ft of original running length of 6234'.

THE 39 STEPS (1935)

pc Gaumont British Picture Corporation
d. Alfred Hitchcock

cast. Robert Donat, Madelaine Carroll.

Classic spy thriller based on John Buchan's famous novel contains the most famous music hall scene in Cinema history, when Richard Hannay asks music hall act, 'Mr Memory', "What are the 39 Steps?" vc 7758ft.

RADIO PARADE OF 1935 (1935)

pc. British International Pictures
d. Arthur Woods

Feature film. Includes Will Hay, Alfred Drayton, Billy Bennett, Dave Burnaby, Lily Morris, Nellie Wallace, the Western Brothers, Clapham and Dwyer, Georgie Harris, Hugh E. Wright, Claude Dampier, Ronald Frankau, Alberta Hunter and Ted Ray. vc 8466ft.

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP (1935)

pc Gaumont-British Picture Corporation

The schoolmistress elopes with circus wrestler and is substituted by an identical twin. With Max Miller, Dick and Dickie Henderson, Will Hay and starring Cicely Courtneidge. vc 7158ft

Note: Hay Plumb has small part.

ROYAL CAVALCADE (1935)

pc British International Pictures

d. Norman Lee

Made to celebrate George V's silver jubilee, this is a look at Britain in the years of his reign. The linking theme is the ownership of a George V penny from person to person. It contains many scenes of popular entertainment including music hall, musical comedy and revue with short glimpses of many artistes working in the years 1895 to 1930.

Including: Arthur Prince, Lupino Lane, Stanley Lupino, George Robey, Harry Tate, Gus McNaughton, Syd Walker, Alice Lloyd, Jerry Verno, Seymour Hicks, Ellaline Terris, Jimmy Hanley, Florrie Forde, George Graves etc. vc 9432ft, nitrate only.

ARTHUR LUCAN(OLD MOTHER RILEY) – BRIDGET'S NIGHT OUT (1936)

pc. Butcher's Film Service

Comic monologue by Arthur Lucan as Old Mother Riley, probably from 'Stars on Parade' (see above). Old Mother Riley complains about her daughter Kitty's absence from the house before removing numerous layers of clothes in preparation for bed. Bridget's voice is heard off. vc 221ft.

Note: This is a filmed version of famous music hall sketch from which the 'Old Mother Riley' film series derived.

HEARTS OF HUMANITY (1936) d. John Baxter

pc. UK Films

Thriller starring Eric Portman with Bransby Williams as Mike, a member of the London underworld. Contains scenes at the 'Metro' music hall during a talent spotting competition. Variety acts include Teddy Joyce and his band, violinist, comedian Stanelli. vc 5910ft.

MEN OF YESTERDAY (1936) d. John Baxter

pc. U.K.Films

An elderly Major runs an ex servicemen's association despite the pressure to retire him. It contains scenes of famous music hall stars including: George Robey, Will Fyffe ('Glasgow belongs to me') and Ella Shields (see below). No vc 7217'.

ELLA SHIELDS (1936)

pc. UK Films

Ella Shields sings "Burlington Bertie", originally from MEN OF YESTERDAY (1936). vc 104ft + 75ft 16mm. One print has the words superimposed over the picture.

Note: The footage was reused in CAMP CONCERT (1943, see below).

SOFT LIGHTS AND SWEET MUSIC (1936)

pc. British Lion Film Corporation

d. Herbert Smith

A musical revue featuring many music hall and musical comedy stars.

Includes: Evelyn Dall ("I've Lost My Rhythm", "I'm All In"); Ambrose and his Orchestra ("We're Tops on Saturday Night", "Limehouse Blues", "Madonna" etc); the Western Brothers ("After All That", "Mistlethwaite, Don't Be a Cad"); Harry Tate; Turner Layton ("My S.O.S. to you"); Elisabeth Welch ("Yesterday's Thrill"); Wilson, Keppel and Betty; the Five Charladies ("I'm Just a Little Lady from the Boulevards"); Sandy Powell's Harmonica Band ("It's My Mother's Birthday Today"); Max Bacon ("Cohen the Crooner") and the Three Rhythm Brothers ("Tiger Rag"). A second copy recently acquired includes additional material with Turner Layton ("East of the Sun and West of the Moon"); Donald

Stewart ("South American Joe") and Billy Bennett ("The Shooting of Dan McGrew"), plus see the Harry Tate 'Motoring' sketch below. vc 5873ft and section of 593ft.

(MOTORING SKETCH) (1936)

pc. British Lion Film Corporation

Harry Tate in a sketch originally from SOFT LIGHTS AND SWEET MUSIC (1936).

Viewing copy on VHS only from master 9.5mm 600ft .

STARS ON PARADE (1936)

pc. Butcher's Film Service

Variety compilation including Robb Wilton and Arthur Lucan as Old Mother

Riley in the original "Bridget's Night Out" sketch. vc 5772ft.

CALLING ALL STARS (1937)

pc. British Lion Film Corporation

Musical revue. Includes: Ambrose and his Orchestra ("Serenade in the Night", "Body and Soul", "Eleven More Months and Ten More Days", "When Day is Done"; Carroll Gibbons and the Savoy Hotel Orchestra ("I'm Always Painting Rainbows"; Evelyn Dall ("I Don't Want to Get Hot"); Sam Browne ("The Peanut Vendor"); Max Bacon ("When Gimble Hits the Cymble"; Larry Adler ("Stardust", "St Louis Blues"); Arren and Broderick ("The Last Rose of Summer", "Bacio"); Billy Bennett ("T'was Christmas Day in the Workhouse"); Flotsam and Jetsam ("Calling All Stars", "The Changing of the Guard"); the Nicholas Brothers ("Za-Zu-Za-Zu"); Turner Layton ("These Foolish Things"); Revnell and West ("Old Kent Road", "Red Sails in the Sunset", "Sweet Adeline"); Leon Cortez and his Coster Pals; Elisabeth Welch ("Nightfall"; Buck and Bubbles ("Rhythm's OK in Harlem"). vc 6653ft + original trailer vc 211ft.

UNDERNEATH THE ARCHES (1937) d. Redd Davis/Sydney Blythe

pc. Twickenham Film studios

Vehicle for Flanagan and Allen is comedy of two London down-and-outs who stow away to South America and get caught up in a revolution and the ensuing peace meetings. vc 6500ft + vc 16mm 2537ft.

SONG OF THE ROAD (1937)d. John Baxter

UK Films

Bransby Williams plays Bill, a van driver who refuses to switch to motorized transport. He travels through South England in search of work with his horse Polly, meeting up with travelling circus etc. vc 6559ft.

FEATHER YOUR NEST (1937)

pc. Associated Talking Pictures

d. William Beaudine

An assistant recordist at a gramophone factory restores his fortunes when he finally makes a hit record. starring George Formby and Polly Ward with Syd Crossley. Songs and music by Leslie Sarony among others. vc 7307 ft

THANK EVANS (1938)

PC. Warner Brothers First National Productions

d. R William Neill

A vehicle for music hall comedian Max Miller and sequel to 'Educated Evans' with Polly Ward and Albert Whelan. vc fragment only 106ft.

Note: a 106 ft fragment is held in the NFTVA collection otherwise this is a lost film.

HOOTS MON! (1939)

pc. Warner Brothers First National Productions

Feature film with Max Miller (the closest record to his stage act) and Impersonator, Florence Desmond. vc 7067ft.

I THANK YOU (1941)

pc Gainsborough Pictures

d. Marcel Varnel

Comedy in which Lily Morris plays a Lady who refuses to back a theatrical company. The company eventually persuade her to revive her old music hall act which saves the show. With Arthur Askey, Moore Marriott. vc 81 mins.

THE COMMON TOUCH (1941) d. John Baxter

pc. British National

A young businessman stays incognito at a doss house. Bransby Williams plays old Ben. Some dance band performance with the Savoy Orpheans, Carroll Gibbons and his orchestra. vc 9221'

LET THE PEOPLE SING (1942) d. John Baxter

pc. British National Films

Cast: Alastair Sim, Patricia Roc, Fred Emney, Edward Rigby.

Travelling players help local townspeople fight the closure of their entertainment hall.

From the novel by J. B. Priestley. vc 9390ft.

Note: not strictly about music hall but, like the characters in Priestley's other novel, *The Good Companions* it illustrates the life of the peripatetic theatrical troupes who were always closely related to the music hall business. There was considerable cross over of personnel between these two areas of the business, particularly in the summer months.

CAMP CONCERT (1943)

pc. [unknown]

Reissued version of footage from MEN OF YESTERDAY (1936), with Ella Shields ("Burlington Bertie"), Will Fyffe ("Glasgow Belongs Me") and George Robey.

DOWN MELODY LANE (1943)

pc. New Realm

Variety compilation, including Leslie 'Hutch' Hutchinson, Naughton and Gold, G.S. Melvin, the Houston Sisters and John Payne's Negro Choir. vc 3755ft.

STARLIGHT SERENADE (1943)

pc. Federated Film Corporation

Variety compilation which includes two good sequences showing

Wilson, Keppel and Betty and their famous sand dance. vc 563ft.

VARIETY JUBILEE (1943)

pc. Butcher's Film Service

Feature film. Includes George Robey, Charles Coburn, Tom E. Finglass, Ganjou Brothers and Junita, Wilson Keppel and Betty (the film of their act is incomplete and does not show Betty) and Marie Lloyd Jr. recreating her mother's act. vc 8211ft nitrate only.

THEATRE ROYAL (1943) d. John Baxter

pc. British National Films

Flanagan and Allen vehicle concerns props man trying to save theatre from being sold and puts on a show to keep it open. vc 8702'

CHAMPAGNE CHARLIE (1944)

pc. Ealing studios

d. Alberto Cavalcanti

Tommy Trinder and Stanley Holloway star as the legendary rival lion comiques' of the mid 19th century, Champagne Charlie (George Leybourne) and the 'Great Vance'. Contains many original songs of the time. vc 9385ft.

HIGHLIGHTS OF VARIETY (1944)

pc. Butcher's Film Service

Series of music hall acts. Talbot O Farrell introduces Kid Krupa (drummer), The comrades with Tom Costello, the Thirty Two Tappers, Gus Elen impersonated by John Rorke, Ganjou Brothers and Juanita. No vc.

TA RA RA BOOM DE AY (1945)

pc. Crescent films Production

Dir. Fred Weiss

Dramatised history of the music hall in Britain from its origins in pubs to the present day. 3283' nitrate only.

LONDON TOWN (1946)

pc. Wesley Ruggles Productions

Feature film with several sketches starring Sid Field which formed part of his long running music hall act. His catch line was 'What a performance!' and he was famous for a golfing sketch (Address the ball!) with Jerry Desmonde who also had a long career in film comedy. vc 11464ft Technicolor restoration NFTVA.

COURTNEY'S OF CURZON STREET (1947)

pc Wilcox-Neagle Productions

British Lion Film Corporation

Michael Wilding and Anna Neagle vehicle, in which he is a baronet who marries the parlour maid. Unable to cope with social pressures she leaves him and bears him a son. Later, she is successful on the stage and they are reunited. vc 10844ft.

Note: Contains scenes of Anna Neagle performing songs at different stages of her life including during WW1.

SCRAPBOOK FOR 1922 (1947)

pc. Pathe Pictures

Compilation documentary. Includes Stanley Lupino, Gertrude Lawrence, Herbert Mundin, A.W. Baskcomb, Alfred Lester, Billy Merson, Tom Walls, Leslie Henson, Alice Delysia.

SCRAPBOOK FOR 1933 (1949)

pc. Associated British Pathe

Compilation documentary. Includes Wilson, Keppel and Betty, Lupino Lane, Beatrice Lillie, Ronald Frankau, Harry Tate, Tommy Handley, all shown very fleetingly. vc 5177ft.

RAY OF SUNSHINE (1950)

pc. Delman Pictures

Variety compilation, featuring the complete act of Wilson, Keppel and Betty. And not forgetting George Formby, Gracie Fields, Will Hay, the Crazy Gang, Frank Randle, Stanley Holloway, Jack Hulbert, Cicely Courtneidge, Arthur Askey, Alfred Lester, Hetty King, Gaby Delys, John McCormack, Lupino Lane, Anna Pavolova, Marie Kendal, Madge Saunders. vc ?

SIGNS OF THE TIMES (1950)

pc Wallace Publicity/Lever Brothers

Advert for Persil starring Arthur Lucan and Kitty McShane in their music hall and cinema roles as Old Mother Riley and her daughter. 300ft.

AFTER THE BALL(1957) d. Compton Bennett

pc. Romulus

Biopic of the life story of Vesta Tilley.

Vesta Tilley is played by Pat Kirkwood. Features some real music hall stars such as Jerry Verno. vc 8031ft. Trailer also held.

THE ENTERTAINER (1960) d. Tony Richardson

pc. Woodfall Fil Productions

d. Tony Richardson

Crisis of an old time vaudeville entertainer, with Laurence Olivier. vc 8639ft.

FAMOUS MUSIC HALL ARTISTS (1966)

(Compilation film. Many of these items also appear separately above.)

"Miss Toots Pounds singing The Cupid On The Wedding Cake". "Lorna and Toots - Pounds in impressions of famous sisters". "The Musical Eccentric Will Evans (Britain, 1899)". "Vesta Tilley". Guests on a lawn at a society wedding; the bride (Vesta Tilley) carrying a bouquet. "The Jolly Dutch Girl. Little Miss May Moore Duprez, age three (from Around The Town)". "Marie Lloyd" [actually Marie Lloyd Jr from the film VARIETY JUBILEE (1943)] on stage in spotlight, dancing and singing. 16mm vc 161ft.

CHAPLIN (1992)

pc Carolco/Lambeth/Canal +

d. Richard Attenborough

cast. Robert Downey Junior, Anthony Hopkins, John Thaw, Paul Rhys, Kevin Kline, Geraldine Chaplin.

Biopic of Charlie Chaplin from his music hall days in London, to his rise in Hollywood and later life. Based on David Robinson's seminal biography. Contains some good scenes in music halls including the famous 'Mumming Birds' sketch later made into film as 'Night in the Show'.

Appendix 1. Films not in the *bfi*'s NFTVA collection - for information only

The newsreel companies are a very rich source for film of music hall personalities.

See the ITN British Pathé Archive (<http://www.itnarchive.com/britishpathe/>) and the Gaumont Pathé archive websites (<http://gaumontpathearchives.com/welcome-en.asp>)

AN OBSTINATE CORK (1902)

pc. British Mutoscope and Biograph Company

Dan Leno in open-air comic routine. This exists only as a Kinora reel (i.e. flickbook), not held in the NFTVA. Its discovery was reported in Sight and Sound Winter 1989-90 p. 5. So far, this is the only extant record of Britain's most famous music hall performer.

CHIRGWIN IN HIS HUMOROUS BUSINESS (1896)

pc. R.W. Paul

Exists only as a Filoscope flicker book, held by John Barnes and not in NFTVA. Film copies made from the original exist. Chirgwin was one of the most notable late 19thc music hall artistes, and this is the only moving picture record of him.

[LITTLE TICH IN FOUR DANCES] (1900) (Lobster/Nederlands Filmmuseum) Four dances by Little Tich filmed in Paris. They include, A Guardsman who has trouble with his boots, a spoof of the Loie Fuller skirt dance, Big Boots (+ one other I don't know, a Spanish (?) dancer).

PICTURE PALACE PIECANS (1914)

pc Vaudefilms

d. W P Kellino

[Poluski Brothers] possibly Egbert Brothers Nederlands Filmmuseum 4 mins incomplete. Part of variety act by [?] Two brothers buy a run down film theatre. Ivo Blom states that the film ended with a title saying that the comedians would appear live at the theatre soon but this was not shown in the print at Sacile 2002. Gags around projectors, ticket office etc.

PIMPLES PINK FORMS (1916)

pc. Picadilly

Cast Fred Evans, Joe Evans

Pimple is rejected by the army and gets job delivering forms.

THE GOOD COMPANIONS (1956)

pc. ABPC

d. J Lee Thompson

Cast: Celia Johnson, Eric Portman, John Fraser and Janette Scott.

Remake of 1933 film of J B Priestley's play.

GRIP OF THE STRANGLER (1958) d. Robert Day

pc. Producers associates

Killer haunts seedy burlesque, music hall with Boris Karloff and Jean Kent.

No material in NFTVA