

April 10, 2019

Twice Two - Filmed December 9 through 15, 1932. Released February 25, 1933.

In 1930, Laurel & Hardy played each others sons in *Brats*. In this comedy, they play each others sisters and wives.

Film Editor **Richard Currier**, who been in the Hal Roach Studios employ since 1920, was fired near the end of 1932 for refusing to spy on Laurel & Hardy while working on the set and reporting back to studio General Manager Henry Ginsberg who felt that Laurel & Hardy were wasting time while working. Most of the Laurel & Hardy team, which included cameraman George Stevens, sound engineer Elmer Raguse , director George Marshall and writer Beanie Walker, had also been fired by Ginsberg.

This film was NOT one of Stan Laurel's favorites. He felt this was one of the weakest comedies the team had ever made. Across the pond in England, Her Majesty, Queen Mary, the wife of King George V, made a special request to have a screening of *Twice Two* at a special comedy matinee.

In 1932, Stan Laurel's annual salary was \$104,333 and Oliver Hardy's annual salary was \$77,333. The average American annual salary for 1932 was \$1500.

Carol Tevis - the voice of Mrs. Hardy and Stan's sister. Her childlike voice caught the public's attention first on radio and then motion pictures beginning 1931. Among her many film credits, Carol was co-starring in the RKO series *Blondes and Redheads* first with June Brewster and later Dorothy Granger.

May Wallace - the voice of Mrs. Laurel an Ollie's sister. She was a regular in many comedies at the Hal Roach Studios. Her most memorable role with Laurel & Hardy was that of a laughing nurse in *County Hospital*.

Charlie Hall - plays the cake deliveryman in this comedy.

Be Big - Filmed December 8 through 15, 1930. Released February 7, 1931.

Working title: *The Chiselers*

This film, along with *Laughing Gravy* (1930), were simultaneously produced in Spanish language versions and the two shorts were edited together into one continuous film *Los Calaveras* (1931). The same was done for a French language version, *Les Carottiers* (1932).

Stan Laurel in a 1959 interview said that *Be Big* was one of those pictures where their routines were "over milked". The original length of this film was planned at almost forty minutes, but was shortened to 29 minutes.

The basic story is a reworking of earlier Laurel & Hardy comedies where the boys try to outwit their wives with a scheme to have some fun.

Isabel Keith - plays Mrs. Hardy in this film. She had played Mrs. Laurel in *Perfect Day* from 1929. She was one of three actresses who played both Mrs. Laurel and Mrs. Hardy in Laurel & Hardy comedies.

Anita Garvin - played Mrs. Laurel in this film. This was her last Laurel & Hardy film until 1938. Anita had just gotten married and was in New York visiting her family for the Thanksgiving holiday when she received a telegram from Stan Laurel. He wanted her to come back to Culver City to play his wife in this film. Anita said in a 1981 interview, "I was trying to get out of films so I could live happily ever after as a married old lady, but I couldn't resist Stan. I had to rush to get back in time".

Charlie Hall - plays the bellboy who picks up the luggage for the wives.

Come Clean - Filmed May 7 through May 14, 1931. Released September 19, 1931.

Stan and Ollie do their best to try rescuing a woman from committing suicide. The results are not what they were expecting.

Hal Roach would remake this same story idea as *Brooklyn Orchid* in 1942 with William Bendix and Joe Sawyer.

A lot of the gags that ended up in this film were improvised on the set.

Gertrude Astor - began her career playing the trombone in an all-girl band. She also worked as a stunt woman for director Francis Ford as a result of her excellence in riding horses. Her film career began in 1915 and she was the first actress to sign a contract with Universal Studios later that same year. Gertrude worked frequently at the Hal Roach Studios, but this comedy was her only featured in a Laurel & Hardy film. She retired to the Motion Picture Home in 1966.

Linda Loredó - had appeared in four of the Spanish language comedies with Stan and Ollie. She was the only supporting player from those comedies to continue with them in the English speaking ones. This was her fifth and final film with Laurel & Hardy. A short time after filming completed on this comedy, she was hospitalized with peritonitis and acute appendicitis. She died at the age of 24, just one month before this Laurel & Hardy comedy was released.

Mae Busch - is Kate the suicidal woman in this film. Although 1927 was the year of her first movie with Laurel and Hardy, it wasn't until *Unaccustomed As We Are* (1929) that she first played Mrs. Hardy, the role for which she will always be remembered. She was Mrs. Hardy again in *Their First Mistake* (1932), *Sons of the Desert* (1933), *Oliver The Eighth* (1934) and *The Bohemian Girl* (1936). She also appeared Charlie Hall's wife in Laurel & Hardy's *Them That's in the Hills* (1934) and *Tit for Tat* (1935).

Charlie Hall - plays the frustrated soda jerk at the ice cream parlor.

Tiny Sanford - plays the doorman in one of his 23 appearances in a Laurel & Hardy comedy.

REFERENCES

Laurel & Hardy: The Magic Behind The Movies
by Randy Skretvedt

Internet Movie Database