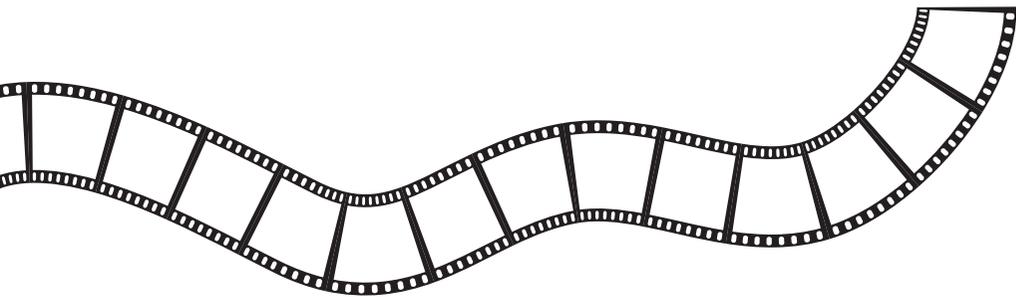




Vital Statistics
Director John G. Blystone, 1892
Released 1938, Universal Pictures UK Ltd
Running time 57 minutes
Genre - Comedy

Laurel and Hardy: Blockheads



Synopsis

It's 1938, the First World War is over, but Stan is left to guard a trench undiscovered until 20 years after the War finished. Oliver sees his old friend's picture in the paper and goes to visit Stan at the Soldiers' Home. Thinking Stan is disabled (it's just that he's sitting on his leg), Oliver takes pity on him and takes him home for a nice home-cooked meal. But Oliver's wife has other ideas and leaves him to fend for himself. After blowing up the kitchen, next-door neighbour, Mrs. Gilbert helps Oliver to clear up the kitchen... until the big-game hunting Mr. Gilbert comes home unexpectedly, carrying a shotgun. Other shorts include 'Unaccustomed As We Are', an earlier short film that 'Blockheads' was based on, 'With Love and Hisses', a comedy military silent film, and 'Should Married Men Go Home', a comedy about Laurel and Hardy's attempts to sneak out for a game of golf.

Did you know?

- When Mr. Gilbert is talking to the reporters about his hunting trip in 'Blockheads', you can see the shadow of the boom microphone on the wall behind him
- 'Unaccustomed As We Are' was Laurel and Hardy's very first talkie – a movie with spoken dialogue in it
- Contrary to popular belief Oliver Hardy never actually uttered the words "Well here's another fine mess you've gotten me into," instead he frequently said "Here's another nice mess you've gotten me into"
- Stan Laurel was born in June 1890, at Argyll Street, Ulverston, in Cumbria, where you'll find the Laurel and Hardy museum. The Laurel and Hardy partnership lasted 31 years, until the 1950s, by which time the duo had made 106 films

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Tasks

'Unaccustomed As We Are' was Laurel and Hardy's first movie to contain spoken dialogue. How might this affect the way in which the film was directed and scripted in comparison to a silent movie?

Consider the different elements, auditory and visual, that the films use to tell the story and communicate the joke to the audience. Can you list some different techniques that the filmmakers use to convey humour and discuss in your groups?
