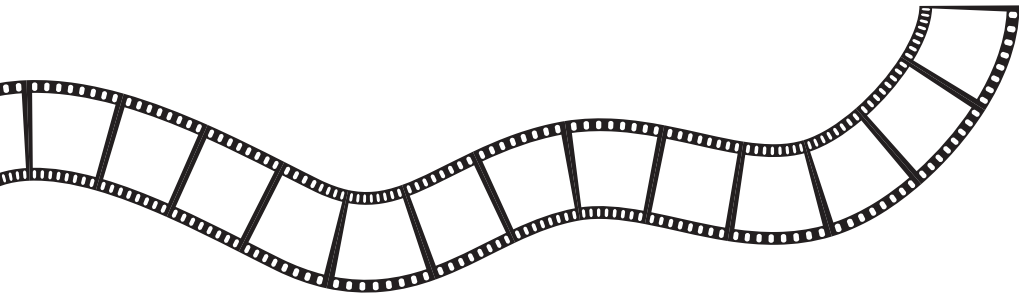




*Vital Statistics*  
Director Norman Z. McLeod 1898  
Released 1931, Universal Pictures UK Ltd  
Running time 77 mins  
Genre - Comedy

# Monkey Business



## Synopsis

In this comedy the four Marx Brothers, Groucho, Harpo, Chico and Zeppo are stowaways on board a luxury ship destined for the United States of America. After being discovered hiding in barrels, they are pursued by the ship's crew. Zeppo and Groucho end up working as bodyguards for one gangster on board, while Chico and Harpo do the same for a rival gangster. After arriving in America, one of the gangsters kidnaps the other's daughter and it's up to the Marx Brothers to save the day.

# Did you know?

- 'Monkey Business' was the first Marx Brothers film written especially for the screen and produced in Hollywood
- Except in the credits, the Brothers' characters have no names in this film. They are referred to only as "the stowaways"
- During the first day of shooting, according to Robert Osbourne, the Marx Brothers showed up in each other's clothing and impersonated each other
- 'Monkey Business' is one of over 700 Paramount Productions, filmed between 1929 and 1949, which were sold to MCA/Universal in 1958 for television distribution and have been owned by Universal ever since

# Tasks

Think about the task of building a set to replicate a ship for filming. How would you recreate a ship? What types of things would you need?

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The film contains a number of slapstick stunts. Think about the precautions and rehearsals needed to ensure these went ahead successfully without injuring anyone.

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