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Newly Discovered 1916 Feature Film on DVD and Streaming Online

Portland, Oregon – Thanhouser Company Film Preservation, Inc in cooperation with the National Library of Norway today announced the discovery, preservation, and new digital release of The Net, a rare surviving five-reel feature film from 1916 produced by the pioneering Thanhouser studio based in New Rochelle, New York.

Written by Thanhouser scenarist Lloyd Lonergan, it was filmed in Jacksonville and Mayport, Florida and runs just over 58 minutes. It is the story of a mysterious women, played by Ethel Jewett, rescued from the sea by a fishman, played by Bert Delaney. She comes with a curse of epic proportions. The plot includes a series of thrilling incidents embracing hairbreadth escapes from death in the quicksands and in the sea. Mysterious criminals evading the law move through the film with a detective who turns crooked when tempted by the beautiful maiden from the sea.

Distributed in Norway in early in 1919 by the distributor Guttorm Jensen of Bergen, it is believed he acquired this print directly from Mutual. Acquired by the National Library of Norway’s around 2002 when the Norwegian Film Institute (NFI) transferred their nitrate material to the national library collection. The NFI received this film sometime between 1955 and 2002.

In 2001 the National Library of Norway made a digital transfer at 4.5K from the original toned and tinted nitrate print. A beautiful HD copy was provided to Thanhouser Company Film Preservation in 2022. The original Norwegian intertitles were translated to English; a version of the film with the original Norwegian intertitles is also available.

New original music was composed and performed exclusively for this film by internationally acclaimed silent-film composer and pianist Günter A. Buchwald. An optional commentary track by film scholar Kathy Fuller-Seeley from the University of Texas is also available.

The Net is available for purchase on DVD and streaming online at www.thanhouser.org for $9.95.

Edwin and Gertrude Thanhouser with brother-in-law Lloyd F. Lonergan founded the Thanhouser Company in 1909 in New Rochelle. Chicago-based film distributor Mutual Film Corporation acquired the Thanhouser studio in 1912 renaming it to the Thanhouser Film Corporation. The Net was one of the last productions released by the studio on April 1, 1916 as a Mutual Masterpicture, Deluxe Edition No. 88. After releasing over 1,000 films to worldwide audiences, the studio closed in October 1917 leaving a rich legacy of innovative and industry trendsetting productions.

Thanhouser Company Film Preservation, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation based in Portland, Oregon. For more information on this and other films, please visit www.thanhouser.org and www.facebook.com/thanhouser. The National Library of Norway holds the original nitrate print and may be reached at www.nb.no.