

PRESS RELEASE

Thanhouser Company



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Lost Feature Film from 1916 Discovered in Norwegian Archive

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

Previously thought to be lost, ***The Net*** was filmed in Jacksonville and Mayport, Florida and runs just over 58 minutes. The beautiful toned and tinted nitrate print has been preserved by the National Library of Norway and is available on DVD and streaming online at www.thanhouser.org for \$9.95.

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 quick sands. 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 Guttorm Jensen of Bergen, it is believed he bought this print directly from Mutual. The film was acquired by the National Library of Norway 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 2021 the National Library of Norway made a digital color transfer at 4.5K resolution from the original nitrate print. A beautiful HD copy was provided to Thanhouser Company Film Preservation in 2022. The original Norwegian intertitles have been 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 musician Günter A. Buchwald. An optional commentary track by film scholar Kathy Fuller-Seeley from the University of Texas is also available.

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 the Thanhouser Film Corporation. ***The Net*** was one of the last productions released by the studio on April 1, 1916 as a Mutual MasterPicture. 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.