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S-T-A-R

"THE WHARF RAT"

Reviewed By George W. Graves in Motography.

One of the most interesting things about this light drama, with a touch of comedy introduced through Anita Loos' subtitles and otherwise, is the true treatment of feminine love of finery as seen in Mac Marsh's awful struggle to wear boy's clothes, which she has to do to keep "Grandpa," an old man who has saved her from the attacks of an over-loving youth, and who thinks he has killed the latter, from the grasp of the detectives. This, inasmuch as Grandpa, formerly bearded, and Polly, the orphan girl, work a transformation in their appearance, and therefore are able to elude such detectives as exist in this particular region. But one reason why the detectives are not more insistent, we suppose, is (as is brought out later in the story) that there has been no murder, and Grandpa's greatest offense is kidnapping.

So the story tells, in a simple, normally entertaining way, how the old violinist and the boy (for this is what we shall call her for convenience sake) take up residence on an old barkentine, and how the youth becomes an itinerant musician to pick up stray pennies and more if possible among the numerous wharf restaurants and saloons. A clerk becomes interested in the wharf rat and the two finally become the best of pals. At last there comes the time when Robert discovers his supposed boy friend in the clothes of the captain's daughter, but this only increases the friendship of the two to something more violent.

The detectives finally come and seize the old man and the girl, who is destined to be taken into her step-mother's custody. But Polly jumps over the taffrail of the steamer and into its wake just in time to be picked up by Robert in a pursuing launch. Robert's idea is marriage, and after talking the subject over with Polly, she too agrees that a minister is the link to connect them with bliss.

Mac Marsh is delightful as the boy musician—the only drawback is that she is almost too delightfully feminine to be mistaken for a boy. Numerous close-ups of Miss Marsh's face show some intensely funny and subtle expressions.

Robert Haron, too, is very good in his part, although it does not make

Second

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any particular emotional drains on his resources. Some of the comedy provided by Mrs. McCracken (Josephine Crowell) is original and good. Mrs. McCracken, let it be said, is the principal of a school for "child culture and spiritual development" which figures in some comedy at the opening of the picture. Spottiswoode Aitken is Grandpa, and the others in the cast are Wm. H. Browne, Pauline Starke and Jack Braunmull. The picture is quite up to the Triangle standard in production.

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