

# THE FEATURE FILMS OF ALICE GUY BLACHÉ

## Filmography by Alison McMahan

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This is an updated and revised version of the Filmography that first appeared in Alison McMahan, *Alice Guy Blaché: Lost Visionary of the Cinema* (New York and London: Continuum 2002).

As the list of Alice Guy Blaché's Solax films make clear, she was working her way towards longer films in 1912, pushing the length of one-reels to the limit and then making some two-reel productions. A huge turning point came in March of 1913 with the production of **Dick Whittington and His Cat**. With a length of three reels (45 minutes), a \$35,000 budget and elaborate staging (including burning a boat) and costuming, it was Madame Blaché's most ambitious Solax project and probably her masterpiece from her Solax period.

In June of that same year Herbert Blaché's contract with Gaumont expired, and Alice Blaché made him president of Solax so that she could concentrate on writing and directing. After three months, Herbert Blaché resigned and started his own film company, Blaché Features. Blaché Features used Solax's plant, inventory, and actors, making the two companies hardly distinguishable for a few months. Blaché Features' production eventually superseded Solax production, so that by 1914 Solax was virtually defunct. It is hard to know if this move was motivated by Herbert's personal ambitions or if it was a way of raising capital, or both. For the rest of 1913 and much of 1914 Herbert and Alice Blaché alternated producing and directing longer films (three and four reels) for Blaché Features. By the end of 1914 market demands shifted to films of five reels or longer. The Blachés joined Popular Plays and Players, a production company that produced features for distributors such as Metro, Pathé, and World Film Corporation. These films were shot in the former Solax studio in Fort Lee, which still belonged to the Blachés. The arrangement Popular Plays and Players ended in 1916, when the Blachés, working as the U.S. Amusement Corporation, decided to produce feature films and make their own distribution deals with the same distributors who bought their films from Popular Plays and Players. Alice Blaché directed seven features, including *The Ocean Waif*. By 1917

The former Solax studio was rented out to other companies, starting with Apollo Pictures and the Blachés became directors for hire. In 1918 Alice Blaché directed **The Great Adventure**, starring Bessie Love, for Pathé Players. The couple separates and Herbert moves to California. In 1919 she directed her last film, **Tarnished Reputations**, and is almost killed by the Spanish Influenza. Herbert Blaché takes her and the children to California, where they still maintain separate households, and hires Alice Blaché as his directing assistant on a series of films starring Alla Nazimova. In 1922, after completing divorce and bankruptcy proceedings for Solax and auctioning off the Fort Lee Studio with all of its contents, Alice Guy-Blaché took her children back to France.

Herbert Blaché went on to direct such films as **The Saphead** starring Buster Keaton in 1920 and **The Wild Party**, with Esther Ralston, in 1923. His directing career ended in 1927.

**Dick Whittington and His Cat**. March 1, 1913. With a length of three reels (45 minutes), a \$35,000 budget and elaborate staging (including burning a boat) and costuming, it is Madame Blaché's most ambitious Solax project.

**The Rogues of Paris.** October 20, 1913. 4 reels. "Produced under the personal direction of Madame Alice Blaché" Solax Ad in *Moving Picture World*, Nov. 1, 1913. Filmed at Lake Hopatong and at a castle on the Russell Sage Estate.

**Ben Bolt.** November 22, 1913. 4 reels.

**Shadows of the Moulin Rouge.** December 26, 1913. R reels.

**The Star of India.** Blaché Features, Inc. Released November 17, 1913. 4 reels. Although usually credited to Alice Guy Blaché, this film appears to have been directed by Herbert Blaché.

**The Fortune Hunters.** Blaché Features, Inc. Released December 15, 1913. 4 reels. Although usually credited to Alice Guy Blaché, this film appears to have been directed by Herbert Blaché.

**Beneath the Czar.** Solax. Released February 1914. 4 reels. Screenplay: Alice Guy Blaché. With Claire Whitney and Fraunie Fraunholz.

**Hook and Hand.** Blaché Features, Inc. Released February 1914. 4 reels. Screenplay: Francis Worcester Doughty. Possibly directed by Herbert Blaché.

**The Dream Woman.** Blaché Features, Inc./Box Office Attraction Film Rental Company. Released March 1914. 4 reels. Based on the novel by Wilkie Collins. With Claire Whitney and Fraunie Fraunholz.

**The Monster and the Girl.** Solax. Released March 25, 1914. 4 reels. Dir. Madame Blaché.

**Fighting Death.** Blaché Features. April 11, 1914. 4 reels. Dir. Herbert Blaché.

**A Fight for Freedom.** Solax. 29 April 1914. Directed by Herbert Blaché.

**The Million Dollars Robbery.** Solax/Blaché Features, Inc. Released May 1914. 4 reels. With Claire Whitney, Vinnie Burns, Fraunie Fraunholz, and James O'Neill.

**The Woman of Mystery.** Blaché Features, Inc. Released May 10, 1914. 4 reels. Screenplay and dir: Alice Guy Blaché. With Vinnie Burns, Claire Whitney and Fraunie Fraunholz.

**The Yellow Traffic.** Blaché Features, Inc. Released June 1914. 4 reels.

**The Lure.** Blaché Features, Inc. /World Film Corporation. Released August 24, 1914. 5 reels. Screenplay: Alice Guy Blaché, based on the play by George Scarborough, directed by Alice Guy Blaché.

**The Tigress.** Popular Plays and Players/Alco. Released December 7, 1914. 4 reels.

Screenplay: Aaron Hoffman. Dir: Alice Guy Blaché. Starring Olga Petrova.

**The Heart of a Painted Woman.** Popular Plays and Players/Metro Film Corporation. Released April 19, 1915. 5 reels. Screenplay: Aaron Hoffman. Directed by Alice Guy Blaché. Photography: Alfred Ortlieb. Starring Olga Petrova.

**The Shooting of Dan McGrew.** Popular Plays and Players/Metro Film Corporation. Released May 2, 1915. 5 reels. Co-produced with and directed by Herbert Blaché.

**Greater Love Hath No Man.** Popular Plays and Players/Metro Film Corporation. Released July 5, 1915. 5 reels. Based on the novel by Frank L. Packard. Photography: Arthur Ortlieb. With Emmett Corrigan, Mary Martin, Thomas Curran, Mabel Wright, Crawford Kent, William Morse, and Lawrence Grattan. This film appears to have been directed by Herbert Blaché.

**The Vampire.** Popular Plays and Players/Metro Film Corporation. Released August 9, 1915. 5 reels. Screenplay: Aaron Hoffman, based on the play by Edgar Allan Woolf and George Sylvester Viereck. With Olga Petrova, Vernon Steele, William A. Morse, and Wallace Scott.

**The Song of the Wage Slave.** Popular Plays and Players/Metro Film Corporation. Released October 4, 1915. 5 reels. Co-produced and directed by Herbert Blaché.

**My Madonna.** Popular Plays and Players/Metro Film Corporation. Released October 25, 1915. 5 reels. Screenplay: Aaron Hoffman, based on the poem in "The Spell of the Yulon," by Robert W. Service. Photography: John William Boyle. With James O'Neill, Albert Derbill, and Yahne Fleury.

**Barbara Frietchie.** Popular Plays and Players/Metro Film Corporation. Released November 24, 1915. 5 reels. Co-produced with and directed by Herbert Blaché.

**What Will People Say?** Popular Plays and Players/Metro Film Corporation. Released January 3, 1916. 5 reels. Screenplay: Aaron Hoffman, based on the story by Rupert Hughes. With Olga Petrova, Fraunie Fraunholz, Fritz de Lint, Charles Dungan, John Dudley, Zadee Burbank, Marilyn Reid, William Morse, and Jean Thomas.

**The Girl with the Green Eyes.** Popular Plays and Players/Pathé. Released May 15, 1916. Although usually credited to Alice Guy Blaché, this film appears to have been directed by Herbert Blaché.

**The Ocean Waif.** Golden Egle/International Film Service. Released November 2, 1916. 5 reels. Screenplay: Frederick Chapin. Photography: John G. Hass. With Carlyle Blackwell, Doris Kenyon, William Morse, Fraunie Fraunholz, Lynn Donaldson, August Bermeister, and Edgar Norton.

**The Adventurer.** U.S. amusement corporation/Art Dramas, Inc. Released February 15,

1917. 5 reels. Screenplay: Harry Chandlee and Lawrence McCloskey, based on the story by Upton Sinclair. With Marion Swayne, Pell Trenton, Charles Halton, Kirke Brown, Ethel Stanard, Yolande Doquette, and Martin Hayden.

**The Empress.** Popular Plays and Players/Pathé. Released March 11, 1917. 5 reels. Screenplay: Alice Guy Blaché and Holbrook Blinn, William Morse, and Lynn Donaldson.

**A Man and the Woman.** U.S. Amusement corporation/Art Dramas, Inc. Released March 22, 1917. 5 reels. Based on the novel *Nana*, by Emile zola. Photography: John G. Hass. With Edith Hallor, Leslie Austen, and Krike Brown.

**House of Cards.** U.S. Amusement Corporation/Art Dramas, Inc. Released May 31, 1917. 5 reels. Screenplay: Alice Guy Blaché. With Catherin Calvert, Frank Mils, and James O'Neill.

**When You and I Were Young.** U.S. Amusement corporation/Art Dramas, Inc. Released August 1917. 5 reels. Based on a story by Frederick Rath. Photography: John G. Hass. With Alma Hanlon, Harry Benham, and Florence Short.

**Behind the Mask.** U.S. Amusement Corporation/Art Dramas, Inc. Released September 3, 1917. 5 reels. Screenplay: Charles T. Dazey. Photgraphy: John G. Hass. With Catherin Calvert, Richard Tucker, Kirke Brown, Charles Dungan, Flora Nason, and Charles Holton.

**The Great Adventure.** Pathé. Released March 10, 1918. 5 reels. Screenplay: Agnes Christine Johnston, based on a short story "The Painted Scene" by Henry Ktichell Webster. Photography: Geroge K. Hollister and John G. Haas. With Bessie Love, Chester Barnett, Flora Finch, Donald Hall, Florence Short, John W. Dunn, and Walter Craven.

**Tarnished Reputations.** Perret/Pathé. Released March 14, 1920. Producer and Screenplay: Leonce Perret. Photography: Harry Forbes and Alfred Ortlieb. With Dolores Cassinelli, Albert Roscoe, George Deneubourg, and Ned Burton.

Alice Guy Blaché also worked in Hollywood as an assistant director to her husband on **The Divorcee** (September 1, 1919), **The Brat** (1919), and **Stronger Than Death** (December 6, 1920).