

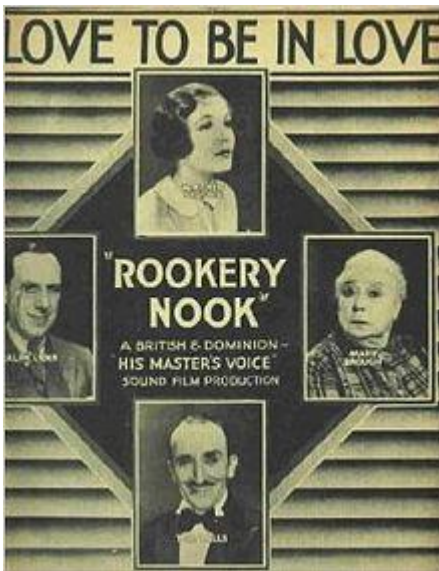
# The 19<sup>th</sup> British Silent Film Festival



## *Rookery Nook* (1930)

Thursday 14 September, 9am

Introduced by Geoff Brown



76 mins, UK, 1930, sound, Genre: Comedy / Stage farce

**Production companies:** British & Dominions Film Corporation / The Gramophone Company, "His Master's Voice"

**Directed by:** Tom Walls

**Producer:** Herbert Wilcox

**Supervised by:** Byron Haskin

**Screenplay:** Ben Travers, W.P. Lipscombe

based on the novel (1923) and play (1926) by Ben Travers

**Photography:** Freddie Young

**Editor:** Maclean Rogers

**Art Director:** Clifford Pember

**Sound:** A.W. Watkins

**Studio:** British and Dominions Studios

The Aldwych Farces were a series of 12 comedies that ran in the Aldwych Theatre London between 1923 and 1933. Mostly written by Ben Travers, they were characterised by clever word play

**Cast:** Ralph Lynn (Gerald Popkiss), Tom Walls (Clive Popkiss), Winifred Shotter (Rhoda Marley), Mary Brough (Mrs Leverett), Robertson Hare (Harold Twine), Ethel Coleridge (Gertrude Twine), Griffith Humphreys (Putz), Doreen Bendix (Poppy Dickey), Margot Graham (Clara Popkiss).

*The Bioscope*, 12 February 1930, p.29:

**IN BRIEF:** Brilliant adaptation of Ben Travers' enormously successful farce, excellently played by the members of the original cast.

**Plot:** A young married man goes to a country cottage for a rest-cure, where he has to give shelter to a pretty girl who wanders in clad in pyjamas and tells a piteous story. Gerald's sister-in-law, and later on his wife, discover the intrusion and make a great deal of trouble. Gerald is saved by the action of a friend who is glad to take the girl under his own care.

**Comment:** This delightful comedy, which had such a successful run at the Aldwych Theatre, has been adapted to the screen with perfect success, and with the original cast is certainly the most amusing farce that has yet been shown on the screen. Every line gets a laugh, and it is entirely the fault of the audience that the laughter is so prolonged that occasionally some humorous point is missed. For clean, hilarious farce this has not yet been equalled on screen.

**Acting:** Ralph Lynn as Gerald Popkins, Tom Walls as Clare, Mary Brough as Mrs. Leverett, are as successful on the screen as on the stage. Winifred Shotter looks charming and plays with grace and finish. Robertson Hare, Edith Coleridge and the rest of a strong cast give splendid support.

**Production:** The cottage, Rookery Nook, is a charming setting, and the photography is admirable.

**Sound:** The voices are remarkably clear and distinct, though some of the players are at times a little too confidential.



RALPH LYNN AND TOM WALLS

*Programme note compiled by Jenny Stewart*



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