

Tol'able David

Saturday 17 April, 9pm

US 1921

Director: Henry King

Richard Barthelmess - David Kinemon

Gladys Hulette - Esther Hatburn

Walter P. Lewis - Iscah Hatburn

Ernest Torrence - Luke Hatburn

Ralph Yearsley - Saul "Little Buzzard"
Hatburn

Forrest Robinson - Grandpa Hatburne

First Nation Picture

Kinematograph March 29, 1923

Points of appeal –An intensely powerful and dramatic story that leads up to a smashing climax that will hold any audience tense. The character studies are clearly drawn, and their development admirably portrayed. The love interest is slight, but holds its place among the dramatic values.

Production – Technically beyond criticism. The production is out-standing for two qualities-the skill with which the artist have been directed and the creation of a dramatic atmosphere that accumulates tension steadily right up to the end. There are imaginative qualities displayed that are too rarely seen, particularly in the way that suggestion is employed rather than the over-emphasis of detail.

The way the characters of the Hatburns are etched in with an extraordinary economy of effort is a touch of genius as is the way the fight in the cabin

is brought to a conclusion. This latter scene has been considerably cut, but in our opinion the result is a distinct gain rather than the reverse.

Acting – Richard Barthelme's as David has the part of his life and plays it in a way that leaves no doubt as to his abilities. Both he and Edmund Gurney as his father, display power of restrained intensity that undoubtedly owes a great deal to the competent direction; the film equally owes most of its power to his masterly work. The large cast all do magnificent work, particularly Walter Lewis as Iscah Hatburn and Marion Abbott as David's mother.

Photography – First rate.

Suitability – A feature booking for any audience. There are several points that make this an outstanding film. It is the first tale by Joseph Hergesheimer, the famous America novelist, to be adapted for the screen and in his successful attempt to visualise the old tale of David and Goliath in a modern setting he has proven a real discovery to the screen.

Photo Play February 1921

The combination of author, star and director has produced another great picture. Richard Barthelme's first starring film, by Joseph Hergesheimer and directed by Henry King is a masterpiece. It is one of the few film tragedies of uncompromising power.

Everyone is glad that Dick's first individual picture is an artistic success. We hope it will be financial success – it deserves to be. See if you can't prove to the doubting magnates that you do appreciate fine things on the screen. Here is something that deserves the highest praise you can give it. You may have read the Hergesheimer story of the

Kinemon family of mountaineers. David, the youngest is "tol'able – just tol'able"- until he proves his right to be called a man by putting up the greatest fight we have seen since 'the spoilers.' Barthelmess forgets he is an idol of every girl in America and portrays the awkward mountain youth with exquisite pathos and whimsicality. Gladys Hulette plays his sweetheart. Ernest Torrance as the villain.

This is no light, forthy little comedy. It is strong meat, but it is so masterfully served it cannot possibly be offensive. It was taken in the actual locale. It as true to life fiction can be. Griffith might have directed some of the scenes; certainly he could not have made barthelmess give a greater performance. This boy is as great an actor as the film has had. In this picture he touches tragic heights. It you can see his scenes with his film mother-fine a player, by they way-without feeling a lump in your throat, there's something wrong with you. Don't miss this. It is a classic.

Musicians

Damian Coldwell

Double Bass player, composer and musician. Formerly of Rich Hall's OTIS LEE CRENSHAW show, I have played with Robyn Hitchcock, Bill Bailey, Sid Griffin, Colin Hay, Michael Richards and once proudly appeared on Late Night with Conan O'Brien alongside heroes Sonic Youth and William Shatner. Recently appearing on radio2 THAT WAS THEN THIS IS NOW and currently having written the music for Andy Parsons R4 show, THE LOST BLOG OF SCREWBYPY TREVITHICK. I have written music for Ross Noble, Howard Read, Midnight Cowboy, Channel4, Central TV, New Art Club and the Community channel!

Nick Pynn

Is an electro-acoustic multi-instrumentalist and composer. His early interests were in world folk and experimental music. In his teens he taught himself guitar and fiddle and busked around Germany and Holland.

Lee Westwood

Lee Westwood is a Brighton-based guitarist and composer. Dedicating much of his time to the tuning DADGAD, Lee exploits the instrument's many facets to create eclectic modern lullabies for the steel strung acoustic guitar, using new dynamics and approaches in his work.

