

The Blue Bird

US : 1918 : dir. Maurice Tourneur : Artcraft
prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

Silent : ? min

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Tula Belle; Robin MacDougall; Gertrude McCoy

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	¢	M	Ⓜ	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Tula Belle pictured centre and, golly, is that Disneyland in the background? In 1918?

Source: A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen

Excerpt from **The Good Film and Video Guide**
review of the 1940 remake:

"...The sequence of the storm and forest fires is magnificent and worth all of the other two major versions of Maeterlinck's story - 1918, directed by Maurice Tourneur, and 1976, directed by George Cukor... Tourneur's version, much admired in its time, is now primitive, but it is to that era that the story really belongs."

[no listing in "Classics of the Silent Screen", "Silent Movies: A Picture Quiz Book", "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "The Critics' Film Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. In 1918 Adolph Zukor's Artcraft studio had Mary Pickford – one of the world's top box office draws of the day – poached away by First National, who gave her mother a \$50,000 "bonus" and signed her brother Jack to a series of films to sweeten the deal. The coup didn't leave them grinning for long. Two years later, Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, Charles Chaplin and D.W. Griffith went it alone and formed the United Artists Corporation. Fairbanks and Pickford married the same year.

All of which has nothing whatever to do with this film, the second of four known versions of this Maeterlinck fable. The still suggests that, once again, a debutante was cast in the central role of the little girl, later played by a fading Shirley Temple. It seems bizarre now to our eyes, but film-makers of the silent era often seemed to think any popular child role could be equated with Snow White or Cinderella, and cast as a grown woman. Maurice Tourneur (father of director Jacques Tourneur) also directed the 1920 "**TREASURE ISLAND**", featuring Lon Chaney. And yes, his Jim Hawkins was a broad-hipped sort of a cabin boy.

See subject index under **ARAB WORLD / MIDDLE EAST**.