

Little Accident

US : 1930 : dir. William James Craft : Universal : 82 min
 prod: : scr: Gladys Lehman : dir.ph.:

.....
 Douglas Fairbanks Jr; Anita Page; Sally Blane; Zasu Pitts; Joan Marsh; Roscoe Karns;
 Slim Summerville; Henry Armetta; Myrtle Stedman

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Halliwell's Film Guide review:

"A man is about to marry again when he finds that his first wife is having his baby. Stretched-out comedy which fumbles its way along. From a play by Floyd Dell and Thomas Mitchell."

"If anybody thinks 82 minutes is the proper time for this film, they should be made to sit through it twice."
 - **Variety**

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"The wedding is scratched at the last minute when the bridegroom (whose second marriage this is) discovers that his future wife has had a baby on the eve of the wedding!¹ A comedy full of complications. ** "

The Universal Story review:

"Based on the novel *"An Unmarried Father"* by Floyd Dell and the play *"The Little Accident"* by Dell and Thomas Mitchell, **"THE LITTLE ACCIDENT"** did not benefit much from its celluloid incarnation. On the contrary, thanks to Will Hays' censorship code, a certain toning down of dialogue was required, which reduced to the level of an anecdote the story of a man who, on the eve of his second marriage, learns that he is the father of his ex-wife's child and postpones the wedding indefinitely. After becoming engaged to practically every female member of the cast, the father returns to his former wife (having first smuggled the

baby away from her), and a happy-ever-after situation was duly vouchsafed. Douglas Fairbanks Jr did the best he could as the hero, with Anita Page (his wife), Sally Blane and Joan Marsh as the women in his life. Others on duty in Gladys Lehman's screenplay (adaptation by Gene Towne) included Roscoe Karns, Slim Summerville, ZaSu Pitts, Henry Armetta and Myrtle Stedman, who were directed by William James Craft. The studio remade it in 1939, and it surfaced yet again as **"CASANOVA BROWN"** (International) in 1944."

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "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"]

¹ The writer got his wires hopelessly crossed in translating from the original English text (an earlier edition of Maltin)

No further information currently available. For more information on the Hays Code, and what it forbade, see the subject index under [BANNED FILMS / CENSORSHIP](#).

[Douglas Fairbanks Jr](#) just sneaks under the wire as a child actor in his own right, having made "**PARTY GIRL**" at 10, and "**STEPHEN STEPS OUT**" (in the title role) at 13. From 1925 he began shooting films more regularly (much against his father's wishes) and was 20 when he made this.

See the 1939 remake with Baby Sandy, and subject index under **BABIES / INFANTS** and **COMEDY**.