

## Plenty of Mystery in Houdini's Latest

Houdini in  
"THE MAN FROM BEYOND"  
Houdini Picture Corp.

**DIRECTOR** ..... Burton King  
**AUTHOR** ..... Houdini  
**SCENARIO BY** ..... Coolidge Streever  
**CAMERAMEN** ..... Messrs. Ruby, Zuker, Fischbeck, Penrod, Dunmyer and Littlefield  
**AS A WHOLE** ..... Creates intense atmosphere of mystery, building steadily toward a climax which, however, has little satisfaction in its denouement  
**STORY** ..... It is of the fantastic, improbable nature; contains theories and above all suspense  
**DIRECTION** ..... Sustains interest splendidly and puts over thrill at close in fine style  
**PHOTOGRAPHY** ..... Average  
**LIGHTINGS** ..... Frequently too bright  
**STAR** ..... Scores his inning in daring escapes and the rescue in the rapids  
**SUPPORT** ..... No particularly good acting; leading lady screens poorly; Nita Naldi in a short role as a near-vamp.  
**EXTERIORS** ..... Suffice, some artificial  
**INTERIORS** ..... Adequate  
**DETAIL** ..... Fair  
**CHARACTER OF STORY** ..... Treats mildly of reincarnation theory but chief mission is to provide thrills  
**LENGTH OF PRODUCTION** ..... 6,200 feet  
The best feature about this picture is the familiar, but none the less thrilling, sequence of the daring rescue in the rapids. It is one of the "Way Down East" and "Wild Honey" variety and as in the other two pictures, forms the climax of the story and closes the picture with a genuine wallop of a thrill. Houdini swims the rapids of Niagara to rescue the heroine and the camera has registered some fine shots of this feat.

Then there are interspersed scenes of the trials, which increase the suspense.

The picture contains an atmosphere of mystery opening with the discovery of a man frozen in ice and his subsequent resurrection after being frozen in the ice one hundred years. The exterior of the ship is a studio set and an obviously poor and artificial imitation of the real thing. With this exception the settings and locations are quite suitable.

The chief element in the plot is mystery and they keep piling it on in one sentence after another. At intervals it permits of thrills for the sake of variety such as escaping from a padded cell in a convict train and the swim in the rapids. There is a well-sustained interest because of the accumulative suspense that is created and maintained to the end although it may be that the denouement will not prove satisfying in view of the great amount of mysterious incidents that precede it and that are not explained or fully explained finally. The picture has a certain interest considerably and none too artificial. It has a number of numerous short flashes separated by long scenes which make it choppy occasionally. The acting is good but there are no outstanding performances and the leading lady is a poor screen type. She photographs very badly at times.

Story: Hillary had been incased in ice for one hundred years and upon his revival events transpire for him just where he left off. He meets the girl he believes is the one he loves. Instead of being the great great grandchild of the girl he loved, a Mr. Trent who wants to marry her holds her prisoner in a plot to get the girl's money. Then Hillary saves her from being forced into marrying Trent and later rescues her from the rapids, completing the story which is unremembered by the reader here.

## Should Do if They Favor This Type of Story

Box Office Analysis for the Exhibitor

In view of the name gained by Houdini through his mysterious performances and marvellous escapes from straight jackets, etc., you probably would have much difficulty in getting people to come in and see the picture. Houdini has appeared frequently in vaudeville and in case your patrons may have seen his illusions, as he calls them, they will be interested to see what he has to offer in a motion picture.

Your own patrons should be attracted to the picture and give the most support to the picture in the rapids. A short number of these scenes will give the picture some of the interest. Take care of the picture. As this picture will be a long time in coming to the market, it will be about the same as the picture of one a year long, a picture of one a hundred years.