

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN MOTION PICTURES

By Constance Talmadge  
PRODUCTION MANAGER

This is the title given to the person who has charge of the completed film.

It is a position that requires an exhaustive training, entailing the gaining of an exact knowledge of cutting and editing, for the holder thereof must know at a glance whether the film is in perfect condition and ready to be shipped to the distributors, and if not, just in what way it fails.

Miss Irene Morra, who holds this position with the Jackie Coogan productions, has reached the pinnacle of success in this branch of the silent drama, and the story of her career will illustrate very well just how one should go about getting experience for this work.

It is the duty of Miss Morra to assemble the long pieces of film on which the scenes of the picture have been "shot," put them in story form, cut them down to proper footage and scene length and take care of a dozen and one other details which come under her supervision.

Miss Morra started in the motion picture business immediately after leaving high school. She had a good teacher—D. W. Griffith. For six years she worked under Mr. Griffith guidance, starting at the bottom of the ladder as a film 'patcher,' and quietly and gradually ascended the various rungs of the ladder to inspector, then negative cutter—then positive cutter—until at the time she left Mr. Griffith she was in complete charge of print production for all of the Griffith masterpieces. It was her duty not only to inspect these films, but to cut the negative and positive prints, arrange shipment, keep tab on all prints made and sent out—in fact take general charge of the developed film.

Mr. Griffith badly wanted Irene Morra to accompany him East when he left California to open studios in New York, but illness on the part of her father prevented her from going East with him and she was obliged to make another connection.

When Jackie Coogan commenced work on his first production for Sol Lesser, Miss Morra joined the organization and has been with it ever since.

Not only does Miss Morra have complete charge of the film room of the Coogan company but she "sits in" during production and keeps tab on the scenes "shot," the continuity of these scenes and the story, the action, costumes and many other details. When, on a morning, all are gathered on the "set" prior to camera work, Miss Morra's presence is required. She must be there just as must little Jackie himself. She is just as important as any of the Coogan staff—for after all the modern production company is one concrete unit that functions only when all the parts of that unit are assembled.

Miss Morra was responsible for the films of "My Boy," "Peck's Bad Boy" and "Trouble," which last named will shortly be released through First National Pictures.



MISS IRENE MORRA.