

Marie Eline ("The Thanhouser Kid")

Titles: 10 Sources: 1 Stills: 5

Born: Milwaukee, Wisconsin; February 27th 1902
Died: Longview, Washington; January 3rd 1981



*Long before Shirley Temple was a twinkle in anybody's eye, there was "The Thanhouser Kid", and from the looks of it a grand dame of the silver screen by the age of ten.
Source (Left): Thanhouser website
(below): Young Hollywood Hall of Fame website*



Thanhouser Company Film Preservation website profile:

"Known as "The Thanhouser Kid", Marie Eline worked with Thanhouser from autumn 1909 through early 1914. During the 1910-1912 years she was by far the most famous of all the Thanhouser players.

Biographical Notes: Anna Marie Eline, born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on February 27, 1902, the daughter of Grace and Charles Eline,

became known as "The Thanhouser Kid". She started in films with the Thanhouser Company at the beginning of business in autumn 1909. Her first release was "**A 29-CENT ROBBERY**" (April 15, 1910), in which she played the lead role, a little girl whose bank was stolen. Grace, her sister, also appeared in this film. Marie played female and male juvenile parts with equal facility. As one of many examples of a male role, in "**THE JUDGE'S STORY**" she essayed the role of a young black boy, to critical acclaim.

In "THE CRY OF THE CHILDREN" (1912) she was a child expiring of harsh factory conditions, and returning from the pearly gates, seemingly, to comfort her desolate parents.

Source: Silents Majority



Her acting on the screen was praised in numerous reviews in *"The Billboard"*, *"Moving Picture World"*, and other trade journals during the early years of the Thanhouser Company, when few other actors were mentioned by name. During 1910 and 1911 she was mentioned more frequently in Thanhouser advertising than were all other players combined. *"The Moving Picture World"*, January 13, 1912, informed readers: "The Thanhouser Kid has no other name for picture purposes. She is just the Thanhouser Kid." Marie Eline was seen in dozens of films. Her versatile acting was a major contributor to the success that the Thanhouser Company enjoyed during its formative years.

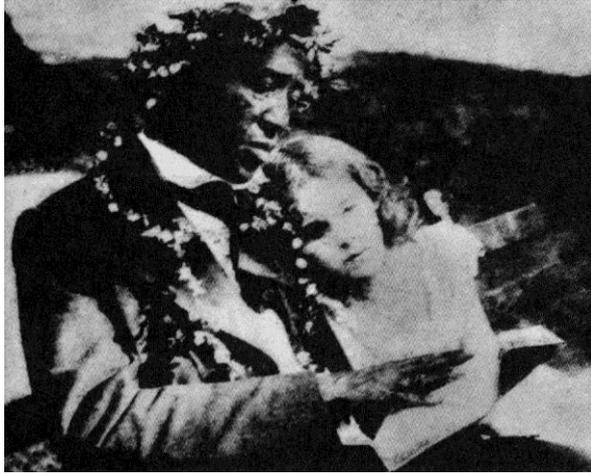
"The Photoplay Magazine", November 1912, told of her acting abilities: "Marie Eline (Thanhouser), known to all as 'The Thanhouser Kid' is one of the greatest child actresses on the screen or the legitimate stage, and is loved and admired wherever Thanhouser films are shown. Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this clever little actress has assisted such stars as Guy Bates Post in **"THE BRIDGE"**, Fanny Ward in **"VAN ALLEN'S WIFE"**, appeared in **"THE FATAL WEDDING"**, in **"LA BELLE RUSSE"** and with Nora Bayes and Jack Norworth in **"THE JOLLY BACHELORS"**. Frequently this little lady is called upon to enact emotional scenes that would puzzle a Bernhardt, a Mrs. Fiske or a Leslie Carter, especially when one recalls that pantomime alone can be used and that spoken words are useless, yet little Marie 'puts over' the scene with all the naturalness of real life."

In the summer of 1913, amid her film work, she found time to appear on the stage at Proctor's Fifth Avenue Theatre, in New York City, where she dressed in rags, in the role of a poor child from a broken home, and gave a monologue imploring a judge to spare her father from prison.

She was known as "The Thanhouser Kid" until November 1913, when Charles J. Hite announced that Marie Eline had been transferred to the Princess Department, was no longer to be known as "The Thanhouser Kid", for she was "nearly 11" and grown-up. It is evident that by then her star had dimmed, and she was relegated to occasional mentions in Thanhouser publicity. After that time, she remained with Thanhouser just a month or two.

Marie Eline left Thanhouser early in 1914 and went back on the stage. *"The New York Dramatic Mirror"*, February 18, 1914, noted that she "will shortly open in a novel vaudeville offering that is being prepared for her by James Madison. The act carries a special drop, is introduced by a novel picture, and on the whole is expected to make vaudeville patrons sit up and take notice." The same trade publication noted in its issue of April 15, 1914 that Marie Eline was breaking her vaudeville contract "to go to New Orleans with the World Producing Company, which is to produce a film version of **"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN"**, featuring Miss Eline and Irving Cummings."

With the World Producing Corporation she was under the directorship of William Robert



As Little Eva in her 1914 remake of "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN", with Sam Lucas as Uncle Tom.

Source: *Pictorial History of Silent Screen*

Daly in "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN", appearing as Little Eva, the role she had played earlier in the 1910 Thanhouser version of this American classic. Irving Cummings, who was in transition and was set to go with Thanhouser, appeared in the role of George Harris.

For a number of years after Marie Eline left the New Rochelle studio, she continued to be referred to as "The Thanhouser Kid" in publicity, for it was by this name she was recognised by millions of movie patrons. Sometimes she was billed as "The Original Thanhouser Kid", for by the time she departed from Thanhouser, a number of other children were among the Thanhouser stock players.

In 1919 Marie Eline was back in films and worked for a time in Los Angeles with the National Film Corporation of America, where in publicity she was billed as "The Original Thanhouser Kid". National maintained studios at 1401 Lodi Street, Hollywood, and released through the Robertson-Cole Company, located at the same address.

In the 1920s, Marie Eline traveled extensively, often with her sister, and was seen in many stage productions, usually billed as Grace and Marie Eline. The two were seen in a 1928 vaudeville act, "*The Original Thanhouser Kids*", which traded on their fame in films 15 years earlier.

Marie Eline married Milton Edward Blasier, Jr., in Riverside, California in 1922. The couple had one child, a daughter, Marie Elizabeth ("Mary"), born on March 4, 1924 at the Clara Barton Hospital in Los Angeles. An earlier child, a boy, was carried for an incomplete term and was stillborn.

Marie Eline died in Longview, Washington on January 3, 1981. An obituary in *Variety*, January 28, 1981, noted in part: "Marie Eline, age unreported, died in Longview, Washington while visiting her daughter. With her sister, Grace, the Elines played the Keith and Orpheum circuits, starting in show business in 1910. They appeared with Nora Bayes in "*The Jolly Bachelors*", and then Marie went into films, and Grace joined Elsie Janis in "*Lady of the Slipper*". After Marie appeared in a production of "*Rose Marie*", the sisters went into vaudeville, but retired from show business in 1948. Marie Eline, who took the name of Anne B. [Bruce] Carlisle upon retirement, is survived by her sister and daughter."

Her daughter, Mary Eline Grundberg (later remarried to become Mary E. Scheet), supervised the funeral arrangements, which were conducted in Longview by the Steele Funeral Home. The remains of Marie Eline were cremated by the Green Hills Memorial Gardens, Inc."

THE **THANHOUSER** WO-A-WEEK

Tues. April 30 "CRY OF THE CHILDREN" IN 2 REELS
 Tues. April 30 "CRY OF THE CHILDREN" IN 2 REELS

ASK YOUR EXCHANGE FOR 3-SHEETS FOR
The Cry of the Children
Also 2 Kinds of 2-Sheets. Ask Managers & Co., Cincinnati, O., for Details



IN 2 REELS, TUESDAY, APRIL 30th
 Suggested by the Press of
Elizabeth Barrett Browning

MISS ARABELLA SNAITH Florida Franchise
 RELEASED FRIDAY, MAY 3rd

Thanhouser Co., New Rochelle, N.Y.
 Send no MONEY. Let us know what you want. We'll send you "The Thanhouser Way".
 Name _____
 Address _____
 Postage _____

Thanhouser Company
 New Rochelle, New York
 This Company Operates in 12 and 16 Reels
TUESDAY, MAY 29th "MISS"



Source: *Thanhouser website*

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
deb 10	8	A 29-CENT ROBBERY with sister <i>Grace</i>	in lead role
10		UNCLE TOM'S CABIN (Thanhouser)	as Little Eva
- -		LA BELLE RUSSE	
- -		THE BRIDGE	
- -		THE FATAL WEDDING	
- -		THE JOLLY BACHELORS	
- -		VAN ALLEN'S WIFE	
12	10	<u>THE CRY OF THE CHILDREN</u> with <i>Leland Benham</i>	
- -		THE JUDGE'S STORY	as a black boy
14	12	UNCLE TOM'S CABIN (World Prod Corp)	as Little Eva