

The Flying Deuce.

April 2025 Edition  
Volume 1, Issue 2



# Pardon My Sarong

## BUSY, BUSY, BUSY.

Hello and welcome to our second newsletter.

As we get better at using Word and Publisher and find a snazzy free template that we can use, then our newsletters will start to look more smarter and professional. Until then it's gonna be another fine mess.

We have decided on a format that we think will appeal to everyone. A crossword page is always a winner in helping to keep your brains active. We may at some stage add sections for computer help and advertise local events.

We hope to print any articles the reader may wish to submit. The idea is that we fez wearing members have hobbies outside of the Deuces, and may wish to pass on knowledge to other like minded readers. It may even include tips and ideas.

Remember. This magazine is for you.

## WEBSITE FRENZY

Our website [theflyingdeuces.co.uk](http://theflyingdeuces.co.uk) is starting to take shape and look good. We have added a "Leading Ladies" section dedicated to the unsung heroines that helped the films look amazing. This may also be extended to male supporting cast members at a later date.

We also have pages listing the filmographies of both great double acts, and have started to add details about the films. So please bear with us while we get these sections sorted.



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## BUCK PRIVATES 1941 COMEDY/WAR

Buck Privates is a 1941 American musical military comedy film directed by Arthur Lubin that turned Bud Abbott and Lou Costello into bona fide movie stars. It was the first service comedy based on the peacetime draft of 1940. The comedy team made two more service comedies before the United States entered the war (In the Navy and Keep 'Em Flying). A sequel to this movie, Buck Privates Come Home, was released in 1947. Buck Privates is one of three Abbott and Costello films featuring The Andrews Sisters, who were also under contract to Universal Pictures at the time.

Abbott and Costello performed a one-hour radio adaptation of the film on the Lux Radio Theatre on October 13, 1941.

Slicker Smith and Herbie Brown are sidewalk peddlers who hawk neckties out of a suitcase. Chased by a cop, they duck into a movie theater, not realizing that it is now being used as an Army enlistment center. Believing that they are signing up for theater prizes, they accidentally enlist.

Meanwhile, spoiled playboy Randolph Parker and his long-suffering valet, Bob Martin, also report to the theater. Randolph expects his influential father to pull some strings so he can avoid military service. Bob, on the other hand, takes his military obligations in stride. Tensions between the two men escalate further with the introduction of Judy Gray, a camp

*"I saw what I saw when I saw it!" Costello*



## BUCK PRIVATES PART TWO

hostess and a friend of Bob's upon whom Randolph sets his sights.

At boot camp, Slicker and Herbie are mortified to discover that Collins, the policeman who chased them, is now their sergeant. Randolph, meanwhile, learns that his father will not use his influence on his behalf, believing that a year in the Army will do Randolph some good. For all the difficulties, camp life isn't so bad, since The Andrews Sisters appear at regular intervals to sing sentimental or patriotic tunes (including "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy") and Herbie continues to foul up with little consequence.

Although he is an expert marksman, Randolph skips an army shooting match in order to spend the afternoon with Judy. The company loses the match and all the money they had bet on him, causing them to resent him even more. However, during a war game exercise, Randolph redeems himself by saving Bob and coming up with a ruse to win the sham battle for his company. He is finally accepted by his unit and wins Bob's and Judy's admiration in the process. When he learns that he's been accepted to Officer Training School, he initially refuses, believing that his father's political influence was responsible. However, his commanding officer assures him that his training record and recommendations from his superiors factored in the decision. Bob has also been offered an appointment to OTS, and Judy announces that she will be joining them there as a hostess. Meanwhile, Smitty and Herbie accept Collins' invitation to shoot dice, but Herbie ends up (literally) losing his pants.

Buck Privates was filmed from December 13, 1940, through January 11, 1941. It was originally budgeted at \$233,000 over 20 days; in the end it was \$12,000 over budget and four days over schedule. The film was originally conceived as a straight military story with Lee Bowman, Alan Curtis, and Jane Frazee in a romantic triangle, and Bud Abbott and Lou Costello offering comedy relief, as they had in their previous film One Night in the Tropics. When it became clear that Abbott and Costello were really the focal point of Buck Privates, they became the stars of the film. The "cast of characters" credits, after the end title, were filmed before the emphasis was shifted to Abbott and Costello, so Lee Bowman was billed first, as originally intended.

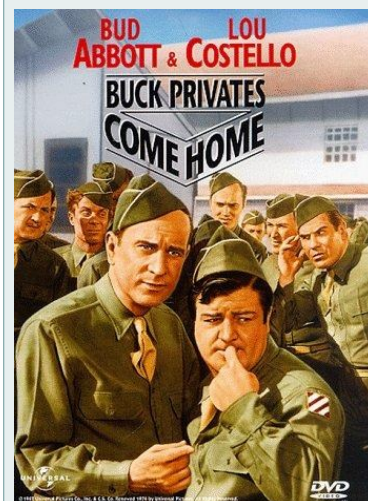
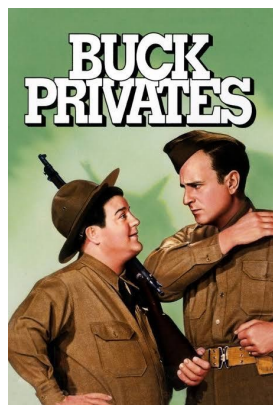




## BUCK PRIVATES PART THREE

The "drill routine", where Smitty tries to get Herbie and other soldiers to march in formation, had been performed by Abbott and Costello on stage for more than three years, where it lasted about two-and-a-half minutes. Director Arthur Lubin and film editor Arthur Hilton, recognizing the potential for a major comedy scene, combined footage from all the various takes—in which Abbott and Costello never performed the same way twice—and extended the drill routine into a five-minute sketch that became a highlight of the finished feature. Abbott and Costello were amazed when they saw the scene on film; they were so accustomed to the shorter, two-minute sketch that they couldn't believe how cleverly it had been amplified.

Lubin recalled the film "was very strange to shoot because they didn't go by much of a shooting script. Being burlesque comedians they just did their old routines. They would say 'This routine is "Spit in the Bush"'. ... And they would have to act it for me and show it what it was. The entire first script was a series of titled gags. I would just say 'We'll take a close up here and a two shot here'. I never interfered. There was nothing I could do because these were tried and true old burlesque things that they and their forefathers and their forefathers, probably since the Greek period, had done."



## THE LEADING LADIES.

We will have a page (or two) dedicated to the Leading Ladies, and possibly other actors who starred alongside our main character's Abbott & Costello and Laurel & Hardy.

This month we start with Louise Allbritton.



## LOUISE ALLBRITTON.

Louise Allbritton (July 3, 1920 - February 16, 1979) was an American film and stage actress born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Her name was sometimes seen as Louise Albritton. She played in such films as *Pittsburgh* (1942), *Who Done It?* (1942), *Son of Dracula* (1943), *The Egg and I* (1947), and *Sitting Pretty* (1948).

Allbritton was born in Oklahoma City on July 3, 1920, the daughter of E.E. Allbritton of Wichita Falls, Texas. She attended the University of Oklahoma and gained acting experience in the Pasadena Playhouse. Her father cut off her allowance in hopes that she would return home, but her contract with Universal Studios enabled her to continue in Hollywood.

During World War II, Allbritton performed overseas with a USO troupe, a group that "[g]ave show after show, many of them to the accompaniment of the thunder of enemy guns.". She was one of several replacements for the leading female role in the long-running Broadway production of *The Seven Year Itch*. On television, she played the title role in the NBC-TV series *Concerning Miss Marlowe* (1954) and co-starred in the CBS drama *Stage Door* (1950).

She was married to CBS news correspondent and author Charles Collingwood from 1946 until her death and retired several years after their marriage. Allbritton died of cancer on February 16, 1979, in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, where she and Collingwood had one of their homes.

She starred in the Abbott and Costello film released in 1942 and called *Who Done It?* Directed by Erle C. Kenton and starring Bud Abbott and Lou Costello. It is noteworthy as their first feature that contains no musical numbers.

Chick Larkin and Mervyn Milgrim both work at the soda counter of a local radio station's headquarters. Their true passion, however, is to become writers on a radio mystery show. They attend a broadcast of the radio program *Murder at Midnight* along with one of the writers, Jimmy Turner, and the producer, Jane Little.

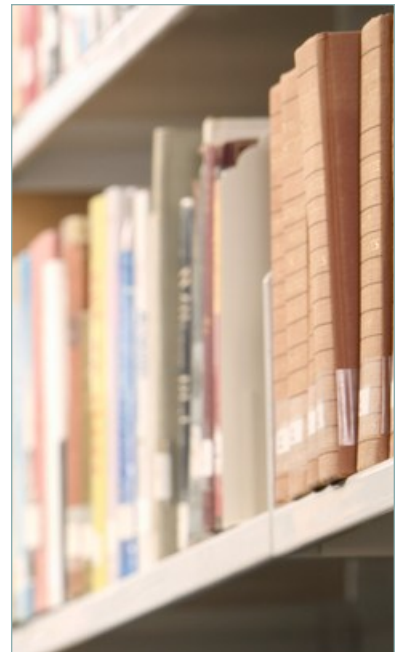




## NEWBURY PAST

Now here's a sight you don't see on the roads of Newbury any more! No cars on the road, just horse and carts ... and a man driving his sheep and cattle over the bridge in Northbrook Street with his sheepdog on the left of him. There's no date on this picture from Peter Bloodworth's archives, but it's got to be about 125 years old.

The bottom photo is if Northbrook Street from the other end circa 1955.



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## SAILORS, BEWARE!

Sailors, Beware! is a silent comedy short film starring Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy prior to their official billing as the duo Laurel and Hardy. The team appeared in a total of 107 films between 1921 and 1951.

An upstanding taxi driver unknowingly picks up a woman and her "little person" accomplice, disguised as a baby, who are revealed to be criminals. Upon their departure without payment and leaving the meter running, the driver, Stan, pursues them onto a cruise ship where he uncovers their nefarious activities.

The tough Captain Bull is not pleased with the cabbie's presence, and growls that Chester can either work his way across or be murdered. Chester is put under the supervision of Purser Cryder (Hardy), who usually ends up taking the blame for the Cabbie's incompetence.

Chester suspects something is peculiar about the "Baby" when it cleans him out in a dice game. He angrily throws the "Baby" down a smokestack. Ordered to give the dirty "Baby" a bath, it is revealed to have a grown man's hairy chest. Knowing the jig is up, the "Baby" takes a measure of revenge by beating up Purser Cryder.

### Cast

Stan Laurel as Chester Chaste, cabdriver

Oliver Hardy as Purser Cryder

Anita Garvin as Madame Ritz

Ed Brandenburg as Other cab driver

Frank Brownlee as Captain Bull

Dorothy Coburn as Lady in an easy chair

Gustav Schaffrath as Roger/The baby

Connie Evans as Society lady

Barbara Pierce as Society lady

Viola Richard as Society lady

Tiny Sandford as Man in robe

Will Stanton as Baron Behr

May Wallace as Society lady

Charley Young as a Man boarding a boat

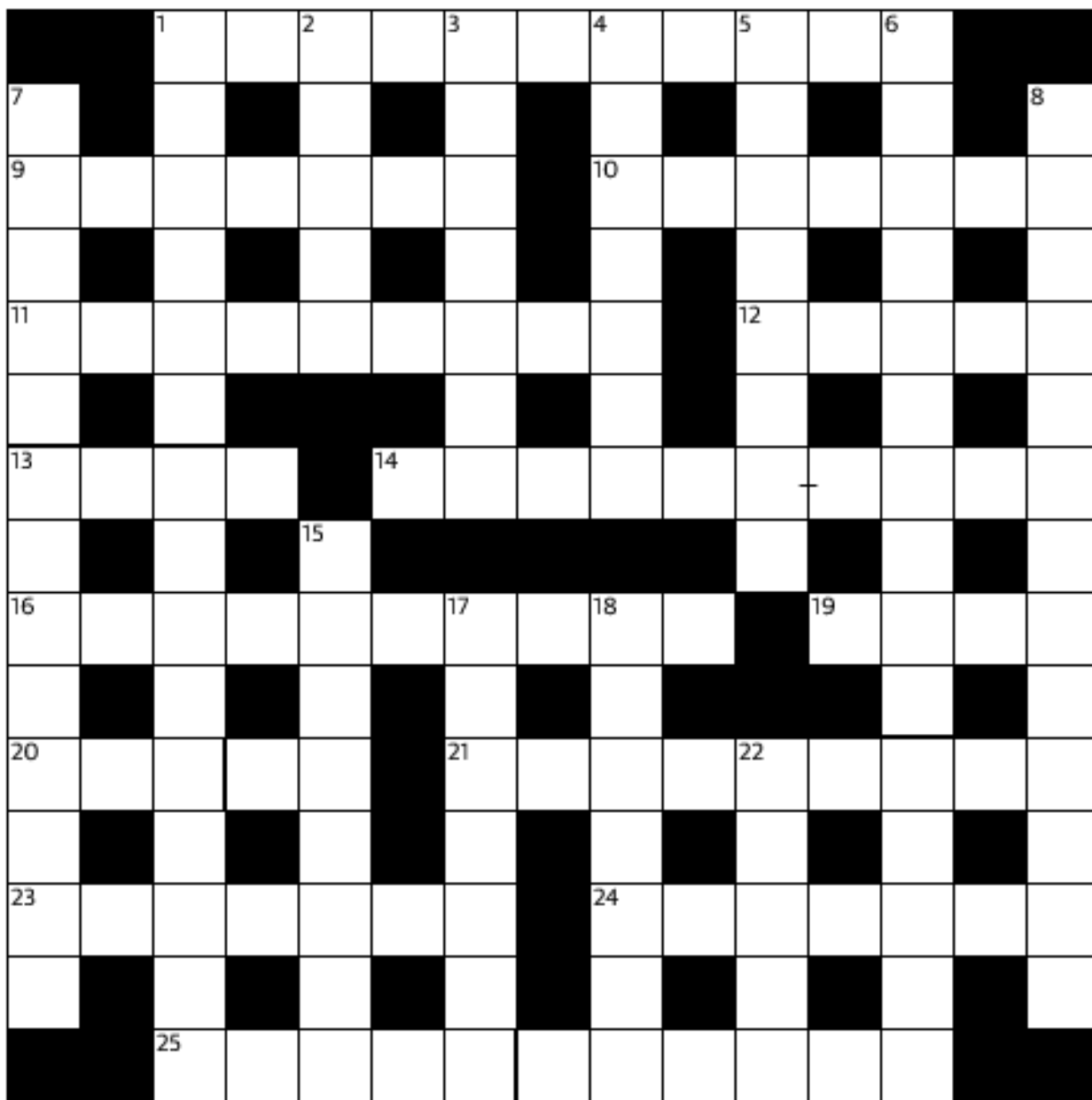
Lupe Vélez as Baroness Behr (uncredited)



## CROSSWORD ANSWERS MARCH

<sup>1</sup> W	E	<sup>2</sup> L	L	<sup>3</sup> Q	U	<sup>4</sup> A	L	<sup>5</sup> I	F	<sup>6</sup> I	E	<sup>7</sup> D
A		E		U		N		M		D		I
<sup>8</sup> D	I	G	N	I	F	Y		<sup>9</sup> P	A	L	M	S
		P		T		W		R		E		C
<sup>10</sup> L	O	U	D		<sup>11</sup> L	A	B	O	U	R	E	R
I		L		<sup>12</sup> B		Y		P				E
<sup>13</sup> G	A	L	L	O	P		<sup>14</sup> S	E	A	<sup>15</sup> B	E	D
H				O		<sup>16</sup> L		R		U		I
<sup>17</sup> T	O	<sup>18</sup> G	E	T	H	E	R		<sup>19</sup> W	R	I	T
S		R		L		S		<sup>20</sup> R		R		
<sup>21</sup> H	E	A	V	E		<sup>22</sup> S	T	U	D	I	E	<sup>23</sup> D
I		V		S		E		N		T		I
<sup>24</sup> P	R	E	S	S	U	R	E	G	R	O	U	P

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## CROSSWORD FOR APRIL



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**Across**

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- 1** So, taxis on rank outside pub; one sounding horn (11)
- 9** Being in America fancy that new motor, retiring earlier (7)
- 10** Swear whenever irritable drinking (7)
- 11** They order madras, not when drunk (9)
- 12** Heavy metal fan to leave gathering on bike at front (5)
- 13** Bend ruler with no metres on (4)
- 14** This has chromatic scales for harpist to play (6-4)
- 16** They're in fast car describing rubbish acceleration (10)
- 19** Men in jazz show (4)
- 20** Ring true legend, ultimately getting into a party (3,2)
- 21** Old record label into rock's musical intervals (9)
- 23** Hold swingers at either side to screw (7)
- 24** Hopeful? Initially getting off painkillers (7)
- 25** Arrange band in part of theatre (5,6)

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**Down**

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- 1** Support minor criminal in old age? (6,9)
- 2** People in south taken in by foolish hoax (5)
- 3** First woman occasionally read letters for Post Office on top (7)
- 4** Slower operator holding up old phone company (7)
- 5** Wearing spectacles to show wisdom (8)
- 6** Regularly told migraine affected face: it's connected with facial muscles (10,5)
- 7** Seeing caramel in order for custard (5,8)
- 8** Guessing John, finally is eighty: posh spread? (13)
- 15** Break crockery over on side (8)
- 17** Romeo escorts dashing people (7)
- 18** Part of victim panic-stricken: they're beaten with sticks (7)
- 22** Item for discussion along with image (5)

## FAN CLUBS

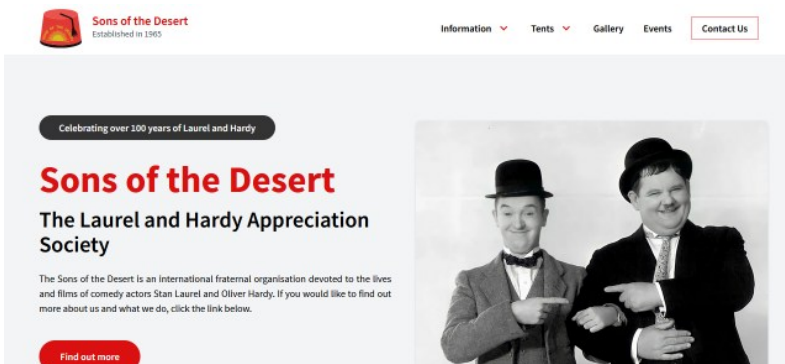
We will be listing other fan clubs relating to the famous double acts, both local to the UK and world-wide.

## FAN CLUBS

<http://www.laurel-and-hardy.com/>



<https://www.sonsofthedesert.co.uk/>



<https://abbottandcostellofanclub.com/>

