

The Flying Deuces.

Magazine for fans of Laurel & Hardy and Abbott & Costello.

December 2025 Edition. Volume 1, Issue 10



***HAPPY CHRISTMAS 2025
FROM THE FLYING DEUCES***



The Flying Deuces.

December 2025 Edition
Volume 1, Issue 10



Pardon My Sarong

"I know there's no such person as Dracula. You know there's no such person as Dracula. But does Dracula know it?"

Welcome to the December 2025 edition of our newsletter.

It's now freezing weather, and parts of the UK have had snow, and Berkshire never seems to make its mind up.

The lights are up and working, the towns getting ready for the big day. Basingstoke Festival Place have all the log cabin stalls out, and so its starting to feel like Christmas.

So lets dive into this festive issue.



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Santa's Little Helpers.

Short Story by Phillip Chandler. Copyright 2025



The North Pole, a realm typically bustling with the methodical hum of toy assembly and the melodic jingle of reindeer bells, was, on this particular December 23rd, in a state of utter, glorious chaos. And at the heart of it, or perhaps more accurately, just slightly to the left of the heart of it, were two relatively new elf recruits: Bud Abbott and Lou Costello.

They weren't your typical elves. For one, they were taller, though Lou still managed to look stout. For another, their hats kept falling off. And for a third, their primary contribution to the toy workshop thus far had been a series of increasingly elaborate mishaps involving glitter cannons, self-tying bows that turned into straitjackets, and an unfortunate incident with the "Do Not Touch" button on the automated gingerbread house frosting machine that resulted in a two-day meringue blizzard.

Santa, a man usually unflappable as a frozen pond, had hired them on a whim. "There's something... *unique* about their energy," he'd boomed, twinkling. Mrs. Claus had just raised an eyebrow.

Bud Abbott, the taller, more exasperated of the two, was currently trying to explain to Lou Costello, who was enthusiastically tasting a lump of what was definitely *not* snow, why they couldn't just "borrow" one of the reindeer for a joyride.

"Lou, for the last time, Blitzen has a schedule. He's not just a big, fluffy dog you can take for a

walk." "But he looks lonely, Bud! Look at him, he's got that big red nose, and nobody's playing 'pin the tail on the reindeer' with him!" Lou gestured towards Rudolph, who was attempting to solve a crossword puzzle with his hoof. "That's Rudolph, Lou. And he's working. We're supposed to be polishing sleigh runners." Abbott pointed to a bucket of dubious-looking green liquid. "Oh, sure, Bud. But what if we polish 'em too much? What if they get *too* shiny and then Santa can't even see where he's going 'cause of the glare?" Costello's eyes widened with genuine concern. "That's not how physics works, Lou! Just polish the runners!"

Suddenly, a cacophony of alarms blared from the main workshop. Elves, usually models of efficiency, scattered like startled snowbirds. Santa himself burst through the double doors, his usually jovial face a mask of concern, his beard askew.

"It's the Great Yuletide Cog-a-Doodle-Do!" Santa bellowed, his voice echoing through the workshop. "It's... it's jammed! And the backup, the 'Jingle-Jangle-Gizmo-Matic,' it's gone offline because someone, and I'm not naming names, left a rogue candy cane in the primary power conduit!" He shot a quick glance at Costello, who was suddenly very interested in the ceiling.

"Without the Cog-a-Doodle-Do, the Toy Assembly Line stops! And without the Jingle-Jangle-Gizmo-Matic, the presents won't load into the sleigh's dimensional storage unit! Christmas is... is in peril!" Santa wrung his hands, a sight that shook the very foundations of the North Pole.

A small contingent of highly-skilled Repair Elves, led by Professor Pipwick Tinkerton, surveyed the gargantuan, steam-belching machine. An array of flashing lights indicated multiple failures. Pipwick, a wizened elf with spectacles perched precariously on his nose, straightened up. "Santa, sir, the main cog is lodged, and the internal wiring of the Jingle-Jangle-Gizmo-Matic has completely fused. We... we need a new Flux Capacitor and a Razzle-Dazzle-Resonator from the Whispering Caves of Wumbly. It's a perilous journey, Sir! Extremely treacherous! Who would be brave enough?"

Santa's Little Helpers. Abbott and Costello

All the other elves instantly found urgent tasks to attend to – polishing the soles of their boots, reorganizing spools of ribbon by molecular structure, suddenly becoming *very* interested in lint.

Santa's gaze swept the room, landing, inevitably, on Abbott and Costello, who were still arguing about the physics of sleigh runner glare. He sighed, a gust of wind that rustled nearby elf hats. "Abbott! Costello! You're the ones!"

Bud Abbott blinked. "Us, Santa? For a perilous journey? To the... the Whispering Caves of Wumbly?" Costello clapped his hands. "Ooh! Can we take Blitzen, Bud?" "No, Lou!" Abbott snapped. Santa, however, didn't give them a choice. "You two are resourceful! Unpredictable! You're Christmas's last hope!" He thrust a scroll, a map, and what looked suspiciously like a rubber chicken into Abbott's hands. "The map will lead you. The scroll contains the incantation for the 'Sparkle-Snuggle-Sleigh' – it's self-driving, mostly. And the rubber chicken... well, it's good luck! Now go!"

And so, Abbott and Costello found themselves bundled into a miniature, self-driving sleigh that smelled faintly of peppermint and existential dread. The map, drawn in glitter, seemed to contradict itself every few inches.

"Alright, Lou," Abbott grumbled, trying to decipher the swirling lines. "It says we go 'North by Northwest, past the Giggle-Troll Gully, then take a sharp right at the 'Don't Do It' sign, unless it's a Tuesday, in which case we go left at the 'Really, Don't' sign, then through the 'Whatchamacallit Woods'."

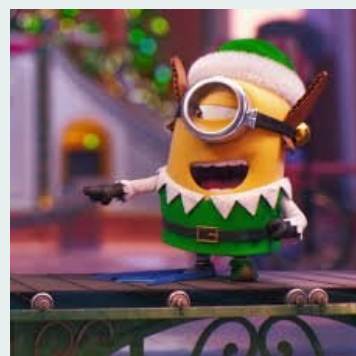
Costello frowned. "But Bud, what if it's not a Tuesday? What if it's... like, a Thursday?" "Then we follow the Tuesday instructions, Lou! It's metaphorical!" "Metaphorical? What's a metaphorical? Is that like a hippopotamus, only smaller?"

They traversed the "Giggle-Troll Gully" – a place where actual trolls giggled incessant-

ly, making it impossible to hear directions. "Did he say 'turn left at the talking tree' or 'burn left with a squawking spree'?" Costello shouted over the din. "I think he said 'ignore the laughing beast!'" Abbott yelled back, expertly dodging a flying snowball with a troll face on it.

Eventually, they found themselves at the entrance to the "Whatchamacallit Woods," a dense forest where the trees actually *did* talk. A gruff-looking pine tree with a monocle cleared its throat. "Halt! Who goes there?" "We're Abbott and Costello, on a mission for Santa!" Bud declared. "And we need to get to the Whispering Caves of Wumbly for a Flux Capacitor and a Razzle-Dazzle-Resonator!" Lou added. The tree blinked. "A 'Whozitnow' and a 'Whatchamacallit'?" "No, a Flux Capacitor and a Razzle-Dazzle-Resonator!" Abbott insisted. "Oh, you mean the thingamajig and the whosiwhatsits?" "No!" "Are you sure you don't mean the doohickey and the whatsitcalled?" "No, we mean the Flux Capacitor and the Razzle-Dazzle-Resonator!" This went on for what felt like an hour, with other trees joining in, each offering a different synonym until Bud felt his brain begin to melt like a neglected snow cone. "JUST LET US THROUGH, PLEASE!"

They finally stumbled into the Whispering Caves of Wumbly, a vast cavern filled with iridescent crystals and a constant murmur. "It's the whispers, Bud! They're whispering secrets!" "They're just drafts, Lou! Now, the map says the Capacitor is 'behind the shimmering waterfall, guarded by the great Yeti of Yore'."





Santa's Little Helpers. Abbott and Costello

And there he was. A magnificent, enormous yeti, snoring loudly, his fur sparkling with starlight. Behind him, a waterfall shimmered, and through it, they could see two glowing components. "Okay, Lou, we need to be quiet. Very, very quiet. We sneak past him, grab the parts, and we're out." "Gotcha, Bud! Like a mouse in a cheese factory!" Lou then proceeded to trip over his own feet, landing with an earth-shattering *CLANG* as he knocked over a stack of icicles that sounded like a thousand tiny cymbals.

The Yeti of Yore snorted, stretched, and opened one enormous eye. It fixed on Costello. "ELF! You disturb my slumber!" Costello, terrified, held up the rubber chicken Santa had given them. "Uh... it's good luck?" The Yeti stared at the chicken, then at Costello, then back at the chicken. A low rumble started in his chest, which, Bud realized with dawning horror, was the beginning of a laugh. A deep, booming, cave-shaking laugh.

"That's... that's the funniest thing I've seen all eon!" the Yeti roared, tears streaming down his face as he clutched his massive belly. "An elf... with a rubber chicken! HA! Go on, take your gizmos! Just... just leave the chicken! I need a good laugh now and then!"

Abbott, utterly bewildered, grabbed the genuine Flux Capacitor and Razzle-Dazzle-Resonator while the Yeti was still gasping for breath between guffaws. "Come on, Lou! Before he changes his mind!"

They practically flew back to the North Pole in the Sparkle-Snuggle-Sleigh, which, true to its name, had a cozy (if slightly sticky) interior. They burst into the workshop, where Santa was pacing, his beard almost singed from proximity to the still-malfunctioning Cog-a-Doodle-Do.

"We got 'em, Santa! The Flux Capacitor and the Razzle-Dazzle-Resonator!" Costello announced, nearly dropping them. Professor Tinkerton snatched them up.

"Excellent!

Now, carefully, we install the Capacitor in the main conduit, and the Resonator in the primary alignment chamber..."

But Costello, eager to help, had spotted a lever labeled "DO NOT TOUCH, SERIOUSLY!" He just *had* to know what it did. "What's



Santa's Little Helpers. Abbott and Costello

this, Bud?" "Lou, no! Don't even look at it!" Abbott frantically grabbed for his arm, but it was too late. Costello pulled the lever with a mighty heave.

Instead of fixing things, the machine bucked, sparks flew, and a high-pitched whine filled the air. Professor Tinkerton screamed. Santa's eyes widened. "He's reversed the polarity of the entire Yuletide Matrix!"

Just when all hope seemed lost, and the elves braced for the complete cessation of Christmas, a strange thing happened. The rogue candy cane, still lodged in the backup system, began to glow. The combined surge from Costello's accidental polarity reversal and the residual sugary magic from the candy cane created a feedback loop. The Cog-a-Doodle-Doo whirred, then clicked, then began to spin perfectly. The Jingle-Jangle-Gizmo-Matic hummed back to life, its fused wires now somehow re-knitted by pure, unadulterated Christmas chaos.

The Toy Assembly Line roared into action. Presents started sorting themselves with newfound

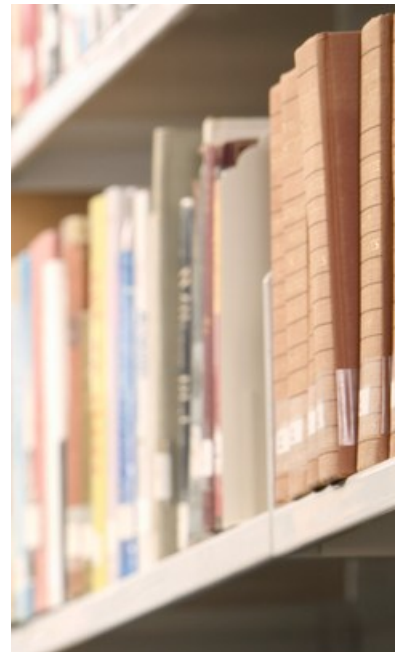
vigor. Christmas was saved, not by precision, but by pure, unadulterated, Abbott-and-Costello-brand pandemonium.

Santa stared, dumbfounded. "I... I don't know how you did it, boys," he boomed, a slow smile spreading across his face, "but you did it! Christmas is back on track!" He clapped them both on the back, nearly knocking Costello over.

"See, Bud?" Costello beamed, completely oblivious to the near-disaster. "I told you that lever would do something!" Abbott just sighed, running a hand over his face. "Lou, next year, you're on present-wrapping duty. With mittens."

And that Christmas Eve, as Santa's sleigh soared through the starlit sky, laden with gifts, two figures stood watching from the North Pole. Abbott, leaning against a freshly-polished (by other elves) runner, looking exhausted but relieved. And Costello, joyfully trying to teach the now-retired-to-the-North-Pole Yeti of Yore how to play catch with the good luck rubber chicken.

Christmas, it turned out, sometimes needed a little less method, and a whole lot more merry madness.



Nat Perrin Screenwriter



Nat Perrin (March 15, 1905 – May 9, 1998) was an American comedy film, television, and radio screenwriter, producer, and director, who contributed gags and storylines to several Marx Brothers films and co-wrote the script for the film *Hellzapoppin'* (1941) adapted from the stage musical. He is credited with writing the screenplay or story outline for over 25 films, including *The Big Store* (1941), *The Great Morgan* (1945), and *Song of the Thin Man* (1947), as well as several television series.

Perrin was a registered attorney who never practiced; he instead worked in the publicity department for Warner Bros. in 1930. He often told the story of how he made his way into Groucho Marx's dressing room in 1931 with a forged letter of introduction from Moss Hart. Groucho was impressed with Perrin, and arranged for him to be hired by Paramount Pictures. The two became close friends.

Perrin went on to write for the Marx Brothers' films *Monkey Business* and *Duck Soup*. Their film *The Big Store* was developed from an original story by Perrin. He was co-writer of their *Flywheel*, *Shyster*, and *Flywheel* radio shows, with Arthur Sheekman, and often stood in for Chico when he was late for rehearsals.

Perrin contributed gags, punchlines, pratfalls and plots for other comedians including Buster Keaton, Lou Costello, Bob Hope, Gracie Allen, Eddie Cantor and Red Skelton.

In the late 1930s, Perrin produced for Columbia Pictures, moving to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in the 1940s. In the early 1950s, he became a producer for such TV shows as *The Red Skelton Show* (run 1951–1971) and

the anthology series *Death Valley Days* (run 1952–1970). He produced and was head writer for *The Addams Family* series from 1964–1966.

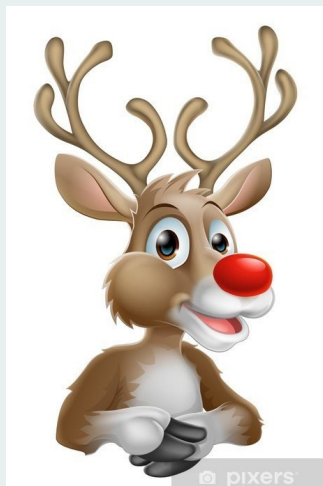
Beginning in the late 1970s and well into his later years, Perrin taught screenwriting and film history at California State University Northridge.

When Groucho's health was steadily declining in 1977, Perrin served as temporary conservator of his estate.

Bud Abbott and Lou Costello in *Hollywood*

Nat Perrin and Lou Breslow screenplay

Nat Perrin and Martin A. Gosch original story



© pixers

S. Sylvan Simon Director

S. Sylvan Simon (March 9, 1910 – May 17, 1951) was an American stage/film director and producer. He directed numerous Hollywood films in the late 1930s to 1940s, and was the producer of *Born Yesterday* (1950).

Born in Chicago, Simon earned bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Michigan, and later attended Columbia Law School.[1]

Simon began his film career at Warner Bros. in 1935, directing screen tests. He became so proficient that Universal Pictures assigned him to fashion several tests into a short-subject special titled *Screen Test*. *Screen Test* and a few Universal feature assignments earned him an invitation from MGM to direct. He became a comedy specialist, supervising many of the slapstick sequences in the Marx Brothers' *The Big Store*. He directed Red Skelton's first starring feature, 1941's *Whistling in the Dark*, and in 1948 worked on two more Skelton vehicles, MGM's *A Southern Yankee* (replacing the scheduled director Edward Sedgwick) and Columbia Pictures' *The Fuller Brush Man*. Simon also directed Wallace Beery in *Bad Bascomb* (1946), and a Glenn Ford western, *Lust for Gold* (1949).

Simon was the producer of *Born Yesterday*, a 1950 comedy that was nominated for five Academy Awards.

He died of a heart attack, in Hollywood, California, at the age of 41. His ashes were interred in a small unassuming bronze nameplate niche at Columbarium of Memory (Niche # 20174), in the Great Mausoleum at Forest Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery, Glendale, California.



FRANCES ANNE RAFFERTY

Frances Anne Rafferty (June 16, 1922 – April 18, 2004) was an American actress, dancer, World War II pin-up girl and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer contract player.

Frances Anne Rafferty was born in Sioux City, Iowa, the daughter of Maxwell Lewis Rafferty and DeEtta Frances (née Cox) Rafferty. She was the younger sister of California educator and Republican politician Max Rafferty, whose wife was Frances (nee Longman) Rafferty.

At 1931, At the age of nine she moved with her family to Los Angeles. At a young age, she studied dancing, and her physical attributes and dancing skills led to work in the film industry.

Rafferty attended Miss Bryant's Day School and Bryant School while the family lived in Iowa. After moving to California, she graduated from University High School in Los Angeles.

Signed by MGM Studios, Rafferty made her film debut in 1942.[citation needed] She appeared in minor and secondary roles, and although she had a part in the 1944 film *Dragon Seed* with Katharine Hepburn and Walter Huston, her significant parts were limited almost exclusively to "B" movies. She played the female lead in *"The Hidden Eyes"*(1945). For instance, in 1948, she starred with Hugh Beaumont in the film noir *Money Madness*, directed by Sam Newfield. Her only role in a major film was in *Bud Abbott and Lou Costello in Hollywood* (1945).

During World War II, she was a volunteer pin-up girl for *YANK* magazine, a publication for the soldiers of the United States military.

In 1949, Rafferty was a performer on the anthology series *Oboler Comedy Theater* on ABC television.

From 1954 to 1959, she appeared as Ruth Ruskin Henshaw in all 156 episodes of the Desilu Studios sitcom *December Bride* on CBS. When fellow cast member Harry Morgan and actress Cara Williams starred in the 1960-62 *December Bride* spin off sitcom, *Pete and Gladys*, Rafferty was subsequently cast in seven episodes in the role of "Nancy".

Rafferty appeared in a number of different television programs throughout the 1950s and 1960s. Among them were two guest appearances on *Perry Mason*. She portrayed Heather Marlow in *"Never Look Back"*, the Season 4, Episode 18, installment of *My Three Sons* in 1964.

After her retirement from acting in 1965, she made a

final appearance in a 1977 episode of the crime drama *The Streets of San Francisco*.

She was married to her first husband from 1944 until their divorce in 1947. (Rafferty's biography on The Des Moines Register's DataCentral site gives Rafferty's first husband's name as "Maj. John Horton". An Associated Press news story dated February 18, 1947, reported "Movie Actress Frances Rafferty obtained a divorce today from John E. Horton, former army major.")

Rafferty died in 2004 in Paso Robles, California.



The Wizard of Oz

Follow the yellow brick road: A guide to watching The Wizard of Oz, Wicked, the Wiz, and all their remakes. This article is here as I'm a great fan of the Wizard of Oz movies and thought this would be a nice article to include.

It's time to try defying gravity....all you have to do is follow the yellow brick road. To be fair, those lines are from two different movies, but they're both iconic phrases from The Wizard of Oz franchise.

The Wizard of Oz is a story that blends genres. It's fantasy, it's adventure, it's an isekai, it's a fairy tale, and it's a beloved part of our pop culture. In 1900 L. Frank Baum published The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, a novel that has become part of our cultural DNA. The book was successful, spawning numerous sequels, and tons of film adaptations.

In fact, MGM's 1939 musical adaptation is often regarded as one of the best films of the 20th century. The visuals were stunning, the choreography was mesmerizing, and cinema was never the same after Judy Garland sang 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow.'

Today, the legacy of The Wizard of Oz continues with Wicked, a film which puts a new spin on the story. Based on the hit Broadway play, Wicked has become a cultural movement, as we all hold space for the lyrics of 'Defying Gravity.'

If Wicked has gotten you curious about watching more of Oz, The Flying Deuces has you covered. This guide will tell you everything you need to know about watching The Wizard of Oz on film and television.

Are you ready to journey to the land of Oz? There have been a ton of Wizard of Oz movies and television shows over the years....and we mean a ton! This is due to the fact that the original 1900 novel is in the public domain, freeing up any studio to produce their own version.

It would be virtually impossible to list every adaptation of The Wizard of Oz....it would be like listing every adaptation of Little Red Riding Hood. However, the following watch order covers all of the major ones, and all of the historically significant ones. If you're wondering what their differences are, and where they take place in the Oz timeline, we cover that in our chronological section.

Do you have what it takes to watch every version of The Wizard of Oz? If so, just follow the yellow brick road....or this watch list.

The Fairylogue and Radio-Plays (1908 live-action film)
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (1910 live-action film)
Dorothy and the Scarecrow of Oz (1910 live-action film)
The Land of Oz (1910 live-action film)
John Dough and the Cherub (1910 live-action film)
The Patchwork Girl of Oz (1914 live-action film)
His Majesty, the Scarecrow of Oz (1914 live-action film)
The Magic Cloak of Oz (1914 live-action film)
The Wizard of Oz (1925 live-action film)
The Wizard of Oz (1933 animated short)
The Wizard of Oz (1939 live-action film)
The Land of Oz (1960 television special)
Tales of the Wizard of Oz (1961 animated series)
Return to Oz (1964 animated special)
The Wizard of Oz (1967 live-action film)
Off to See the Wizard (television anthology, 1967-1968)



The Wizard of Oz

The Wonderful Land of Oz (1969 live-action film)
Journey Back to Oz (1972 animated film)
Manga Sekai Mukashi Banashi (1978 anime anthology)
The Wiz (1978 live-action film)
Thanksgiving in the Land of Oz (1980 animated special)
The Wizard of Oz (1982 anime film)
World Famous Fairy Tale Series Presents The Wizard of Oz (1983 anime short)
Return to Oz (1985 live-action film)
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (anime series, 1986-1987)
Dorothy Meets Ozama of Oz (1987 animated film)
W krainie czarnoksiężnika (1988 animated short)
The Wizard of Oz (1990 animated series)
The Wizard of Oz (1991 animated film)
The Wonderful Galaxy of Oz (anime series, 1992-1993)
World Fairy Tale Series (1995 anime anthology)
The Oz Kids (animated series, 1996-1997)
The Muppets' Wizard of Oz (2005 television film)
Tin Man (2007 television miniseries)
Witches of Oz (2012 television miniseries)
Tom and Jerry and the Wizard of Oz (2011 animated film)
Oz the Great and Powerful (2013 live-action film)
Legends of Oz: Dorothy's Return (2014 animated film)
Guardians of Oz (2015 animated film)
Lost in Oz (animated series, 2015-2018)
The Wiz Live! (2015 television special)
Tom and Jerry: Back to Oz (2016 animated film)
Emerald City (2017 television series)
Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz (animated series, 2017-2020)
The Steam Engines of Oz (2018 animated film)
Wicked (2024 live-action film)
Wicked Part Two (2025 live-action film)

Watching the Wizard of Oz films in chronological order is tricky, since the films and television projects are largely unconnected. In fact, most of them are retellings of the same events, or they contradict each other. For example, Oz the Great and Powerful and Wicked are both prequels to The Wizard of Oz, but each gives their own backstory for the Wicked Witch of the West.

However, if you want to watch The Wizard of Oz films based on their chronology, there is still a way to do it.

Chronological order of Oz movies today that are basically the only ones you really need to watch.

- Oz the Great and Powerful
- Wicked
- Wicked Part Two
- The Wizard of Oz
- Return to Oz



THE WIZARD OF OZ



Wizard of Oz Fan Clubs

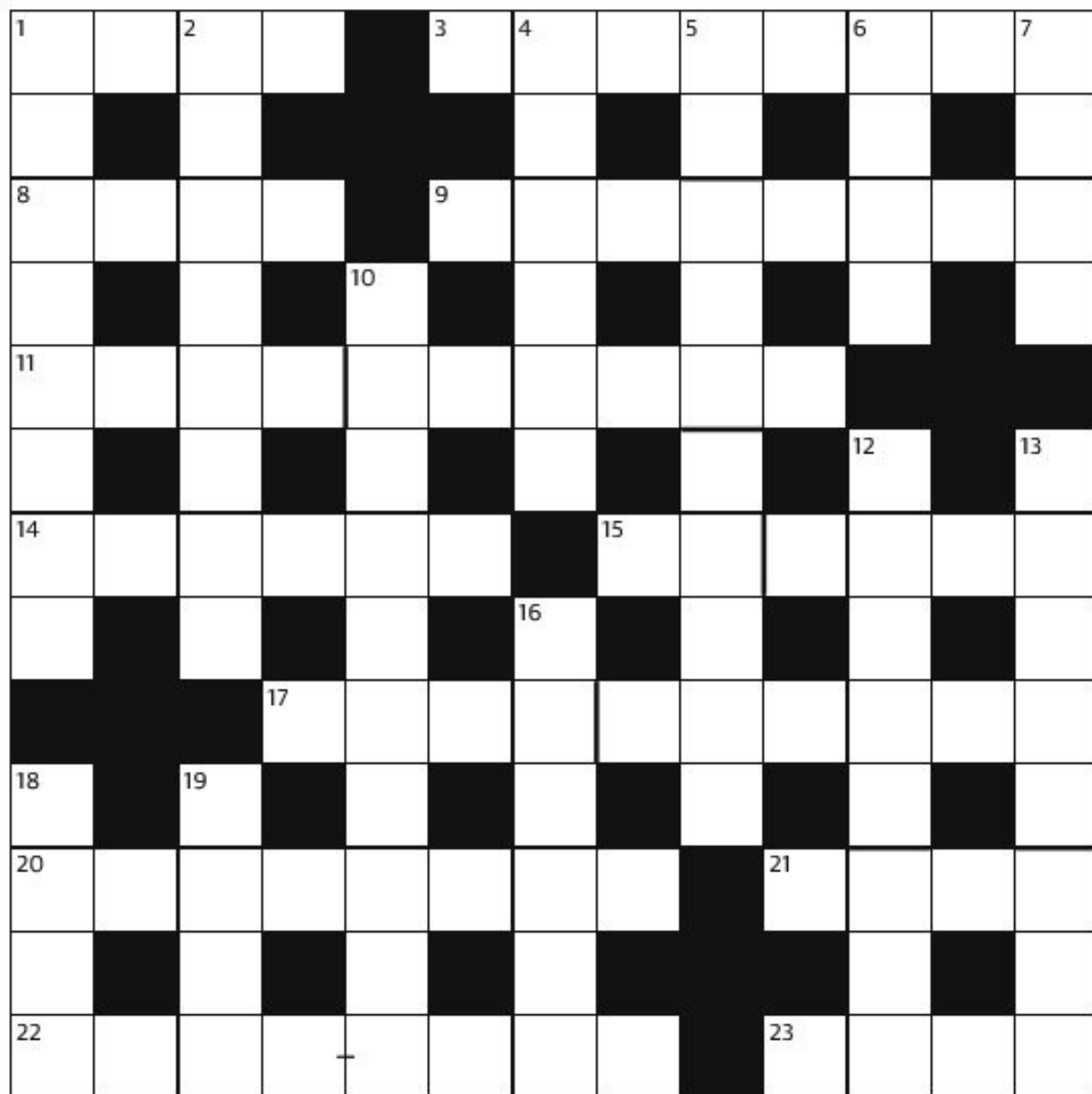
<https://www.ozclub.org/>



NOVEMBER 2025 CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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

DECEMBER 2025 CROSSWORD



DECEMBER 2025 CROSSWORD

Across

- 1** Drawback (4)
- 3** Enduring (8)
- 8** A very long time (4)
- 9** Obscure (8)
- 11** Product discounted to attract customers (4,6)
- 14** Tight (6)
- 15** That's irrelevant (2,4)
- 17** Tells Clara (anag) - it contains seasoning (4,6)
- 20** Understood - Lear dies (anag) (8)
- 21** Nepalese dumpling with reduplicative name (4)
- 22** Beadsmen (anag) - on these, one's penniless (4-4)
- 23** (Short) numerical fact (4)

Down

- 1** Continuous (8)
- 2** Non-electric (guitar) (8)
- 4** Lose (6)
- 5** Correct (2,3,5)
- 6** Weight of an empty vehicle or container (4)
- 7** Bit of guitar music - or paint (4)
- 10** Knock off - I sip a lager (anag) (10)
- 12** Relax ... (5,3)
- 13** ... begin (5,3)
- 16** Listen up - wait on (6)
- 18** Suddenly take hold of (4)
- 19** Art movement formed in Zurich during the first world war (4)

DON'T GET SCAMMED !!



The Flying Deuces



True stories of people who got scammed online highlight how sophisticated fraudsters can be, often exploiting trust, emotional vulnerability, or the promise of financial gain. Common scam types include romance, investment, online shopping, and impersonation scams.

Romance Scams

Sarah, from Kent, lost nearly £100,000 and her home after being tricked into a relationship with someone she believed was an American serviceman. The scammer used emotional manipulation, claiming he needed money for medical expenses and food, and later other scammers threatened to release her personal details online when she tried to end the "relationship".

Jane lost £80,000 of an inheritance to scammers who impersonated actor Jason Momoa and his management team on Facebook and WhatsApp. She was convinced she was in a romantic relationship with the star and sent money for various fabricated expenses, such as flights to meet him and gifts for his purported daughter.

Yvette Williams lost over £30,000 to an American rapper she met on Tinder, who love-bombed her and drew her into his "entrepreneurship" schemes. She later found a Facebook group with thousands of other women who had similar experiences

with the same individual.

Investment and Job Scams

Katy, an e-commerce business owner, invested \$1,000 into a cryptocurrency trading platform after seeing a celebrity endorsement online. The website looked professional, but she soon found she couldn't withdraw her money and the "company" insisted she provide passport details. She cut her losses after a credible crypto platform confirmed it was a scam.

An anonymous victim of an employment scam lost over \$180,000 after taking an "app optimisation" job offer on WhatsApp. The job required her to put in her own funds to complete "complex tasks," with the promise of high returns, but she could never complete the final task or withdraw her money.

Impersonation and Purchase Scams

Julian, a graphic designer, fell victim to an ATO (Australian Taxation Office) impersonation scam during a period of poor mental health. The scammers, who knew he was behind on his taxes, convinced him he would be prosecuted unless he bought gift cards and read the serial numbers over the phone to show "good faith".

Aurnab tried to sell a mattress on an online marketplace and was directed to an exter-

DON'T GET SCAMMED !!



The Flying Deuces

nal, fake website by a "buyer". He entered his bank details, thinking he would receive a payment, but instead, money for almost a month's rent was transferred out of his account into a crypto bank account.

A local couple purchased a stolen RV for an extended period of time after finding it online. The "seller" seemed knowledgeable and allowed a test drive, so the couple ignored red flags, only to discover later they had purchased a stolen vehicle.

Key Takeaway

Victims often report feeling shame and self-blame, but experts emphasize that these are sophisticated crimes that can happen to anyone, regardless of age or tech savviness. If something seems too good to be true, it likely is; taking a moment to stop, check, and protect yourself by speaking to a trusted person or authority can prevent significant loss. You can report scams to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) in the US or to Action Fraud in the UK.

A 419 scam, also known as

advance fee fraud, is a type of scam where fraudsters promise a large sum of money for a small upfront payment. Scammers contact victims via email, social media, or phone with a story about a large, unclaimed sum of money, like an inheritance or lottery win. After the victim sends the initial fee, the scammer repeatedly asks for more money for various supposed costs, such as processing, taxes, or legal fees, before disappearing without sending any of the promised funds. The name "419" comes from a section of the Nigerian Penal Code dealing with fraud.

How it works

The initial contact: The scammer contacts the victim with a fictional story about a large sum of money that needs to be moved or unlocked. This could be a supposed inheritance, lottery winnings, or funds from a powerful individual.

The setup: The scammer claims they need

the victim's help and a fee to overcome an obstacle, such as opening a new bank account in another country or paying taxes on the money. They often stress the need for secrecy and urgency.

The advance fee: The victim is persuaded to pay an initial, often small, upfront fee.

The follow-up: Once the first payment is made, more "obstacles" and fees will appear, requiring the victim to send more money. The amount grows, but the promised payout never arrives.

The disappearance: When the victim stops paying or the scammer has extracted as much as possible, they cut off all contact and the victim is left with no money and no large payout.

Why it is called "419"

The term "419" originates from the section of the Nigerian Penal Code that deals with fraud.

In Nigeria, these scammers are sometimes referred to as "Yahoo boys"

<https://www.419eater.com/>

This is a site setup by a guy who scambaited the scammers with his reverse setups, and gives all the details here. It's a great site, but remember, never get involved with scammers yourself for safety reasons.

The bottom line here is that it's not personal, you are not being personally targeted by these scammers, they don't care who you are. They just want money very quickly for minimum effort.

Just be safe out there.

When you get an email saying you won the state lottery from a country you have never heard of and have never even purchased a lottery ticket from your own country, don't respond—just delete the email, they will want some absurd amount to "Process your winnings."

WHATS HAPPENING IN NEWBURY THIS DECEMBER

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In Newbury over Christmas, you can find various events including the Great Christmas Carnival at Newbury Racecourse featuring a Christmas market, rides, and ice skating. Other events include a Christmas Fair at Shaw House in December, and the Newbury Festival of Lights on December 14th. There are also regular events like the Charter Market on Thursdays and Saturdays and potential Christmas parties at the Newbury Racecourse.

Large-scale events

The Great Christmas Carnival: Happening at Newbury Racecourse until early January, this event includes a Christmas market, a Christmas tree maze, Santa, rides, an ice skating rink, and a circus.

Newbury Festival of Lights: This event takes place on December 14th, starting at 4:00 PM, with a procession beginning at 4:30 PM.

Christmas parties at Newbury Racecourse: Bookings are available for December 18th and 19th.

Markets and fairs

Christmas Fair at Shaw House: A Christmas Gift Fair is scheduled for December 7th from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Newbury Christmas Market: An additional market with Mamas Events is taking place at the ORIDA Hotels on November 29th and 30th.

Charter Market: The regular market in Market Place will have seasonal stalls for Christmas shopping on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Other activities

Festive activities: Consider a scenic winter walk along the Kennet and Avon Canal, a festive horse-drawn carriage ride, or ice skating at the Winter Wonderland Ice Rink.

Workshops and classes: Look into local Christmas craft workshops or classes.

Museum events: The West Berkshire Museum is hosting a "Messy Museum Morning: Festive Fun" on December 19th.

THE MUSIC OF THE DUO'S



Laurel and Hardy were primarily comedy film actors. However, many of their films featured songs, and some are considered as musicals in their own right. The composer Leroy Shield scored most of Laurel and Hardy sound shorts although they were often misattributed to Marvin Hatley.

The duo's "cuckoo" theme, entitled "Dance of The Cuckoos", was composed by Roach musical director Marvin Hatley as the on-the-hour chime for the Roach studio radio station, then known as KFVD. Laurel heard the tune on the station, and asked Hatley to use it as the Laurel and Hardy theme song. Generally known as "The Dance of the Cuckoos" it was copyrighted with the name "Coo ! coo ! radio time signal" and was first heard on the opening credits for *Blotto* (1930) and the Spanish version of *Night Owls* (1930). In Laurel's eyes, the song's melody represented Hardy's character (pompous and dramatic), while the harmony represented Laurel's own character (somewhat out of key, and only able to register two notes: "cu-coo"). The original theme, recorded by two clarinets in 1930, was re-recorded with a full orchestra in 1935. The cu-coo motif is based on the call of the common cuckoo.

A number of their songs are accompanied with a dance routine, the most famous of which is their dance to the song "At The Ball, That's All" sung by The Avalon Boys in *Way Out West* (1937).

In 1992 and 1995, the Dutch orchestra The Beau Hunks released two albums, *The Beau Hunks Play the Original Laurel & Hardy Music*, on which they recreated original background music as heard in Laurel & Hardy's movies. American cartoonist Robert Crumb praised these releases as he had always been a huge fan of this music and reportedly "looked for it his entire life".

The 2019 biographical film *Stan & Ollie* includes the actors recreating Laurel and Hardy's routine of singing of "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine" as done on stage, as well as depictions of their dance routine from *Way Out West*.









Abbott and Costello also had music albums released, and on the following pages we will list some of both duo's releases.

THE MUSIC OF THE DUO'S

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63		Naturally High	Douglas	
1		2 versions ▾		
7		Original Motion Picture Sound-Tracks	Mark56 Records	
		4 versions ▾		
		In Trouble Again (LP)	Mark56 Records	600
		No U Turn	Mark56 Records	
		2 versions ▾		
		Laurel & Hardy, Victor Herbert – Babes In Toyland (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)	Mark56 Records	
		4 versions ▾		
		Way Out West Sons Of The Desert (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)	Mark56 Records Mark56 Records	
		2 versions ▾		
		Laurel And Hardy Their Best Routines From Radio (Cassette, Mono)	Radio Reruns	139
		Laurel & Hardy On The Air	Radiola	

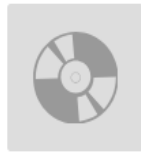
THE MUSIC OF THE DUO'S



[At The Ball](#)
(CD, Album, RM)

[Pegasus](#)

PGN CD 8'
A384907



[Laurel & Hardy: Classic Comedy Moments](#)
(CD)

[Global Journey](#)

GJ3304



[Way Out West Original Motion Picture Soundtrack](#)
(CD, Album)

[Banda Sonora](#)

BSGZ158C



[Stan Laurel & Oliver Hardy](#)

6 versions ▾

[Another Fine Mess Records](#)



[Stan Laurel & Oliver Hardy](#)

4 versions ▾

[Another Fine Mess Records](#)



[Stan Laurel & Oliver Hardy](#)

5 versions ▾

5 versions ▾

[Another Fine Mess Records](#)

[Records](#)

Singles & EPs



[Laurel And Hardy](#)
(Shellac, 12", 78 RPM)

[Columbia](#)

DX 370



[Danza Dei Cuculi / Fra Diavolo](#)

[Columbia](#)

COX 16551

THE MUSIC OF THE DUO'S

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The Trail Of The Lonesome Pine

Another Fine Mess
Records

9 versions ▾



Silverscreen Starring Laurel & Hardy – The
Laurel & Hardy Song / Honolulu Baby

RCA

2 versions ▾



Another Fine Mess Records Presents Stan
Laurel & Oliver Hardy

Another Fine Mess
Records

3 versions ▾



Honolulu Baby

Another Fine Mess
Records

4 versions ▾



Never Mind Bo Peep

Another Fine Mess
Records

3 versions ▾



Shine On Harvest Moon

Another Fine Mess
Records

Compilations



[Original Motion Picture Soundtracks -
Another Fine Mess](#)

Mark56 Records

4 versions ▾



Original Motion Picture Sound-Track - In
Trouble Again
(LP, Comp)

Mark56 Records

600



The Golden Age Of Hollywood Comedy

United Artists
Records United

THE MUSIC OF THE DUO'S



[The Trail Of The Lonesome Pine](#)

[United Artists Records](#)

15 versions ▾



[Laurel & Hardy With Edgar Kennedy And Patsy Moran – In "The Elopement"](#)
(7", Mono)

[Broken Records \(74\)](#) LH-1001



[Another Fine Mess](#)

[United Artists Records](#)

3 versions ▾



[The Avalon Boys / Oliver Hardy With Stan Laurel* – The Laurel And Hardy Two Step - At The Ball, That's All](#)

[United Artists Records](#)

2 versions ▾



THE MUSIC OF THE DUO'S

13



[When Radio Was King! \(Featuring Who's On First And The Hunting Trip\)](#)
(LP)

[Memorabilia Records](#) [MLP-731](#)



[Abbott & Costello: The Radio Treasury](#)

[Nostalgia Lane](#)

3 versions ▾



[Legends Of Radio](#)

[Radio Spirits](#)

2 versions ▾



[Who's On First?](#)

[Nostalgia Lane](#)

8 versions ▾



[Razor's Edge](#)

[Radio Reruns](#)

2 versions ▾



[Hey Aaa-bott!](#)

[Murrav Hill Records](#) [899981](#)

[Christmas Stocking](#)

[Holiday \(3\)](#)

5 versions ▾



[Buck Privates with Bud Abbott and Lou Costello](#)
(LP, Album, Mono)

[Radiola](#) [MR-1135, 1](#)



[The Best Of Abbott & Costello](#)

[GAA Corporation](#) [44114](#)

THE MUSIC OF THE DUO'S



[The Best Of Old Time Radio](#)
(6×CD, RM)

Radio Spirits

50422



[Abbott And Costello](#)
(Cassette, Album)

Radio Spirits

#2491



[Abbott & Costello](#)
(Cassette, Album, Mono)

Golden Age Radio
Blockbusters

BB 419



[The Hunting Trip / Who's On First](#)
(CD, Album, Mono)

Metacom

RM 74003

Singles & EPs



[Abbott & Costello, The Sportsmen Quartet –
Laugh, Laugh, Laugh \(Hey, Abbott! - Hey,
Costello\)](#)

Victor

3 versions ▾



[Laugh, Laugh, Laugh
Who's On First](#)

Not On Label

7 versions ▾



[Bud Abbott And Lou Costello* / Gladys
Goodding – Baseball Routine / Baseball
Medley](#)
(12", 78 RPM)

V Disc

741



[In Jack And The Beanstalk](#)

Decca, Decca

3 versions ▾



[Who's On First](#)
(Flexi-disc, 7" 33 1/3 RPM, S/Sided, Card)

Eva-Tone

611802