



## The Pride of the Clan

by Cari Beauchamp

*The Pride of the Clan* stars Mary Pickford when she was near the peak of her stardom and popularity. "The versatility [Pickford] exhibits throughout the production will cause it to be listed by critics as the best film in which she has appeared," praised *Exhibitors Trade Review* upon the film's 1917 release. Yet the film also shines because of the extraordinary group of artists who came together to make *The Pride of the Clan*, and it serves as snapshot of their progress as they were developing their craft.

Maurice Tourneur had been sent to Fort Lee, New Jersey to establish an American studio for Eclair in 1914. In Paris, he had studied sculpture in Rodin's studio, been a set decorator and an actor who toured Europe and the United States to the point of becoming fluent in English. He had directed dozens of films by the time he joined Adolph Zukor and Jesse Lasky at Artcraft and was already becoming known for mastering close-ups, tracking shots and cut-aways. The art decorator, Ben Carre, had created sets for the Paris Opera before achieving renown in America for both his naturalistic and stylistic sets. Garbo's future director, Clarence Brown, was the assistant director and editor on *The Pride of the Clan*. Two cameramen, John van den Broeck and Lucien Andriot, jointly filmed the sinking boats off the coast of Marblehead during which Pickford said she nearly lost her life.



*This photo courtesy the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences*



The combination of all their skills results in a film that Richard Koszarski calls "ten years ahead of its time." After wrapping *The Pride of the Clan*, Pickford, Tourneur and Carre went straight to work on their next film, *The Poor Little Rich Girl*.