

# Our Hospitality (1923)

**Starring Buster Keaton, Joe Roberts, Natalie Talmadge, Joe Keaton, Joseph Keaton Talmadge, Craig Ward. Directed by Buster Keaton**



Buster Keaton and his wife Natalie in *Our Hospitality*

*Our Hospitality*, set in 1831, is based on an actual feud between two American families, the Hatfields and McCoys, which has become the stuff of legend. Buster renamed his families Canfield and McKay.

Willie McKay (Keaton), brought up by his aunt in New York, heads south to claim his inheritance. On the journey (a fantastic, extended gem of a train ride, using a replica of Stevenson's Rocket) he meets and is attracted to his travelling companion, a charming young lady. She appreciates his attentions and invites him to supper. Unfortunately she is the daughter of the rival family who has vowed to kill him. As her father says, "He will not forget our hospitality!"

*Our Hospitality* was very much a Keaton family affair, with Buster's wife Natalie Talmadge playing the heroine, his son playing Buster as a baby, and his father as the locomotive engineer. "Big" Joe Roberts, who Keaton considered "more of a father than his own", played Canfield Sr.