

FILM PRODUCTION IN NORTH

Old Chapel as Studio

The first film studio in the North of England—the Rusholme Studio—was opened yesterday in what was formerly Dickenson Road Methodist Chapel, Manchester. Immediately after the opening ceremony the new occupiers—Film Studios (Manchester) Ltd.—started production of their first film, a Lancashire comedy called “Cup-tie Honeymoon.”

Although outwardly little changed, the inside of the building has been completely transformed. The walls are covered with a thick sound-proof quilting, and, oddly enough, one of the few remaining reminders of the original purpose of the building was a verse hanging in the hall in which the Sunday School used to meet. It will be sung in “Cup-tie Honeymoon,” but the first line—“Now the cloak of night’s descending”—might well have provided a parting thought for the pupils of the Sunday School.

The new company was formed out of the Mancunian Film Corporation, Ltd., which, from studios in London, has sent out many films about the North. The Lancashire flavour of these productions will be maintained, and Mr. Frank Randle, who is a director of the company, will be featured in two films in the next few months. Representatives of the film industry wished good luck to the project. Mr. R. W. Fox, chairman of the Manchester branch of the Cinematograph Exhibitors’ Association, referred to the excellent equipment of the studio, and Mr. George Formby recalled his first film comedy, “Boots! Boots!” and expressed his indebtedness to Mr. J. E. Blakeley, managing director of the company, for “giving him his first chance.”

Mr. Sandy Powell, Mr. Dan Young, Miss Betty Jumel, and Miss Lynda Ross will have leading parts in “Cup-Tie Honeymoon.”