



Finally, Griffith took the picture back East and apparently some of the powers that be said, "You ought to have more sex in it." As usual, the guys that sell to public figured that public all think in a certain way.

So Griffith wired Woods: "Have Hanabery shoot scenes of *Belshazzar's Feast*." And he described what he wanted—naked women and all this and that.

"He can't shoot naked women," I said. "You can't get away with that sort of thing."

"That's what he says," replied Woods, "and that's what I want you to do."

Gosh, I felt terrible about it. I talked to Billy Bitzer.

"I'm in a spot here. This stuff is going to be terrible."

"You do what you think is right," said Bitzer. "Whatever you do, I'll shot it."

So I got a bunch of people together, and as a basic shot I developed a section from an old painting known as *Belshazzar's Feast*. It was a wild party, I can tell you. A real orgy. I had people lying around so that they weren't stark naked—almost, but not quite. Nevertheless, Frank Woods was sore because I hadn't followed orders—and there was no time to make new scenes.

I didn't know it at the time, but Griffith back East was shooting some naked women he'd dug up from the red-light district. Horrible-looking creatures. He made five or six close shots that were eventually injected into the sequence.

I didn't hear anything more about the matter until Griffith's return. Again he spoke in his indirect way. "You know," he said, "it's a strange thing when your assistant shoots better scenes than you do." Some minutes passed before I connected the remark with that I'd done.

Joseph HENABERY¹

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¹ "Henabery played Abraham Lincoln in *The Birth of a Nation* and was an assistant director and actor on *Intolerance*" K. B. *Interviewed in Hollywood, Dec. 1964*