

CLARA KIMBALL YOUNG SILENT FILMS 1919



Clara Kimball Young, a silent film actress in an automobile and a Chow Chow Credit Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research Date: 1919 ca. Researching further her chow's name was "Wang" and he accompanied her to the movie studio daily.



The photo above led to my going for a search for more information about the woman proclaimed by Lillian Russell as "the most beautiful woman on the screen", ... the first of the silent movie starlets CLARA KIMBALL YOUNG

Could you hear my happy song and dance from there when I ran into this 1915 article below that started with this story

written by the interviewer at Clara's studio? Below is Clara's response to her Chow "Wang" being silly with the reporter.



1919 Silent Film Star Clara Kimball Young and her chow "Wang"

"He must like you, or he wouldn't be playing with you. Isn't he a beauty?" she [Clara Kimball Young] continued fondly.
"I'm going to exhibit him in a dog show and see if I can make

him as famous as his grandfather who is the champion of the world." The turning to the dog, she queried fondly: "It's hard to live up to a celebrity in the family, isn't it doggie?"

The Divine Clara

By ELIZABETH B. PETERSEN

It was a long, long climb up to the big studio on the hill, but, with all my thoughts centered on the charming screen divinity I was so soon to meet, I didn't mind it at all—that is, not until my hat blew off. Then I became peeved—who wouldn't, having to sprint up a two-block hill after a perfectly new hat?

And it blew in such tantalizing curves, straight to the door of the studio, where it lay as if taunting me to follow, that I just set my teeth and determined to capture it—for spite, if nothing else. But just as I was about to swoop down upon it, a fuzzy little Chow-dog dodged in front of me and carried it off—right under my very nose—to a sanctuary a few feet away, from where he stood barking.

It was maddening—don't you think so, too?

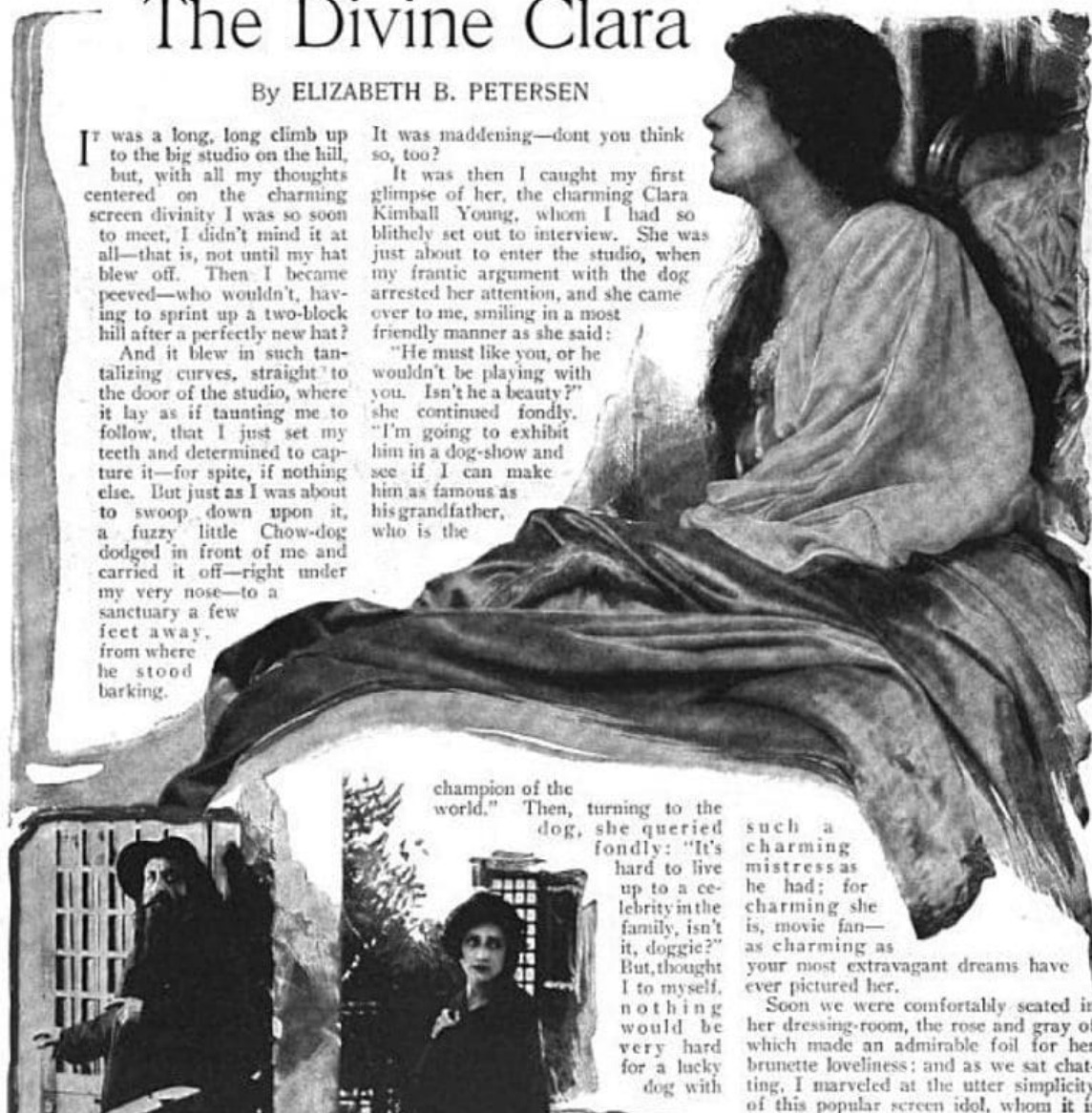
It was then I caught my first glimpse of her, the charming Clara Kimball Young, whom I had so blithely set out to interview. She was just about to enter the studio, when my frantic argument with the dog arrested her attention, and she came over to me, smiling in a most friendly manner as she said:

"He must like you, or he wouldn't be playing with you. Isn't he a beauty?" she continued fondly. "I'm going to exhibit him in a dog-show and see if I can make him as famous as his grandfather, who is the

champion of the world." Then, turning to the dog, she queried fondly: "It's hard to live up to a celebrity in the family, isn't it, doggie?" But, thought I to myself, nothing would be very hard for a lucky dog with

such a charming mistress as he had; for charming she is, movie fan—as charming as your most extravagant dreams have ever pictured her.

Soon we were comfortably seated in her dressing-room, the rose and gray of which made an admirable foil for her brunette loveliness; and as we sat chatting, I marveled at the utter simplicity of this popular screen idol, whom it is



ARTICLE SOURCE ABOVE : 1915 Motion Picture Classic, Volumes 3-4

The entire article is available for download at [GOOGLE BOOKS](https://www.google.com/books)



Clara Kimball Young, the first silent film actress and a chow sitting in the sun on the stoop in front of a stucco house. Original caption: "Clara Kimball Young and her prize Chow dog 'Wang.'" Credit Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research Date: 1919 ca.



Circa 1919 newspaper cartoon depicting a chow puppy owned by silent film star Clara Kimball Young

Clara would routinely bring her chow onto the film set while she was working.



Above is an odd little cartoon in a 1919 newspaper about Miss Young's chow. The "hired hands" are calling him "Percy". Was there another chow besides "Wang".

Of course it now I'm on a mission to find out who "Wangs" most famous gransire sire in the world was! Given this article was written in 1915 I just need to dig a bit deeper....I have a couple of hunches and will update here later!

UPDATE: After a bit more digging over 2 years after writing this article.....I did find this newspaper snippet indicating that Clara had 2 chows at the same time! It is not the best print but you can see the 2 chows up front with the driver and Clara in back. What I wouldn't give to have the actual photo of this.

