

Scotty Beckett

Titles: 83 Sources: 2 Stills: 11

Born: Scott Hastings Beckett; Oakland, California; October 4th 1929
Died: Hollywood; May 8th 1968; probable suicide by overdose



Aged 13 in *"THE BOY FROM STALINGRAD"*

Source: indeterminate website

Halliwell's *Filmgoer's Companion* entry:

"Soulful-looking American child actor of the thirties and forties; one-time member of **"Our Gang"**."

The *Moving Picture Boy* entry:

"Scott Hastings Beckett's life started and ended, as many lives do, in hospital. But the first impulse to his career came there too, when a Hollywood casting director spotted him entertaining his sick father with a medley of pop songs. The rest, for a decade or so, was stardust. Ashes came later.

He was a girlishly pretty child, with fine dark eyes somewhat in the Jackie Coogan mould. The expression, though, lacked Coogan's steel - it was sweet, but slightly weary and petulant. It was the resemblance to the great Jackie, undoubtedly, which led Hal Roach, when he signed him up with **OUR GANG** in 1934, to dress Scotty up in a big cap (baseball, sideways on) and super-sloppy sweater. He was teamed with Spanky McFarland in a shrimp duo, rather as another cherub, Dickie Moore, had been teamed with Stymie Beard a couple of years earlier.

Beckett moved on even sooner than Moore. After less than two years he yielded to Alfalfa Switzer as Spanky's partner in mischief, and ceased to be a regular Ganger. But he made one notable return in the title rôle of **"COUSIN WILBUR"**, as Alfalfa's relative, a bespectacled dandy who turns out to be a business wizard and a prize fighter.

He was in constant demand elsewhere, looking particularly well in patrician garb and settings, for instance as the Dauphin in **"MARIE ANTOINETTE"**. He was in innumerable front-line productions, starring Errol Flynn, Greta Garbo, Fredric March, Norma Shearer, Spencer Tracy and the like, usually as offspring or younger-self. Till his late teens, Scotty was doing fine. He had also won fine notices on the Broadway stage in **"Slightly Married"** in 1943.

But now, in Scotty's teens, the screen parts were beginning to thin out, and his big eyes were losing their confidence and lustre. In 1945 he was seen in **"CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE"** and **"JUNIOR MISS"**, in 1946 as young Al Jolson in **"THE JOLSON STORY"**,

and in 1947 in **"CYNTHIA"** and **"DANGEROUS YEARS"**. 1948 gave him, too old, the lead in a remake of the preposterous **"MICHAEL O'HALLORAN"**, but not in **"A DATE WITH JUDY"**. He had a rewarding lead on radio in the popular series *"The Life of Riley"*.

There followed **"BATTLEGROUND"** (49), submission to Dean Stockwell in **"THE HAPPY YEARS"**, plus **"LOUISA"** and **"NANCY GOES TO RIO"** (50) and another very B-rated lead in **"CORKY OF GASOLINE ALLEY"** (51). He was given opportunities for comedy in the TV serial **"Rocky Jones, Space Ranger"** (54) but largely ignored in his last film, the courtroom drama **"THREE FOR JAMIE DAWN"** (56).

His youthful appeal had almost gone. Far from being pretty, he was beginning to look, on his rougher days, like Ernest Borgnine. His private life was in a mess and he hadn't quite the brains or stability to cope. His first drunken driving charge had come in 1948, and two years later he was divorced from his first wife, whose life he had allegedly threatened. In 1954 he was twice arrested, for carrying a concealed weapon and for passing a dud cheque. A drugs charge came in 1957, with a second divorce the following year and what looked like a suicide attempt.

Show business no longer an option, he tried real estate and car dealing, neither with much success. In 1964 he was given a 180-day suspended jail sentence for hitting his stepdaughter, child of his third wife, over the head with a crutch. At the beginning of May 1968, unemployed and hopeless, he got badly beaten up in a brawl, and was admitted to a Hollywood rest home. After two days he was found dead in bed, apparently of an overdose. Poor Scotty had been beamed up at last."

[Bizarrely, **no listing** in *"Those Endearing Young Charms"*]



Aged 6 in **"ANTHONY ADVERSE"**, with Fredric March

Source: indeterminate website



Aged 8 in **"LISTEN DARLING"**, with Freddie Bartholomew and Judy Garland right Source: indeterminate website



*Aged 12 in **"IT HAPPENED IN FLATBUSH"***

Source: indeterminate website



Aged 13 in **"THE YOUNGEST PROFESSION"**

Source: indeterminate website

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
33	3	GALLANT LADY with <i>Dickie Moore</i>	
34	4	BABES IN TOYLAND with <i>Tommy Bupp</i>	
34		GEORGE WHITE'S SCANDALS	
34		I AM SUZANNE	
34		ROMANCE IN THE RAIN	
34		SAILOR MADE WIDOW	
34		STAND UP AND CHEER	
34		WHOM THE GODS DESTROY	
34		- OUR GANG shorts [x8] -	
35	5	DANTE'S INFERNO	
35		I DREAM TOO MUCH	
35		PURSUIT	
35		- OUR GANG shorts [x7] -	
36	6	ANTHONY ADVERSE with <i>Billy Mauch</i>	as Anthony's son
36		THE CASE AGAINST MRS AMES	
36		THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE	
36		LITTLE BOY BLUE	



Aged 10 in *"MY SON, MY SON!"*

Source: indeterminate

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| 36 | | OLD HUTCH | |
| | | with Delmar Watson, Harry Watson | |
| 37 | 7 | BAD MAN OF BRIMSTONE | |
| 37 | | CONQUEST | |
| 37 | | A DOCTOR'S DIARY | |
| 37 | | IT HAPPENED IN HOLLYWOOD | |
| | | with Billy Burrud | |
| 37 | | KING WITHOUT A CROWN | |
| 37 | | LIFE BEGINS WITH LOVE | |
| 37 | | "OUR GANG" FOLLIES OF 1938 | |
| | | with Phillip Hurlic, Dickie Jones, Bobs Watson, Bobby Winkler | |
| 37 | | WELLS FARGO | |
| | | with Jimmy Butler, Ronnie Cosbey, Jerry Tucker | |
| 37 | | WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE | |
| 38 | 8 | THE DEVIL'S PARTY | |
| | | with Tommy Bupp, Dickie Jones, Mickey Rentschler | |
| 38 | | FOUR'S A CROWD | |
| 38 | | LISTEN DARLING | |
| | | with Freddie Bartholomew, Judy Garland | |
| 38 | | MARIE ANTOINETTE | as the Dauphin |
| 38 | | NO TIME TO MARRY | |
| 38 | | SMASHING THE RACKETS | |
| 38 | | YOU'RE ONLY YOUNG ONCE | |
| 39 | 9 | BLIND ALLEY | |
| 39 | | COUSIN WILBUR | |
| | | with Our Gang – Phillip Hurlic | |
| 39 | | DAYS OF JESSE JAMES | |
| 39 | | DOG DAZE | |
| | | with Our Gang | |
| 39 | | THE ESCAPE | |
| | | with Rex Downing | |
| 39 | | THE FLYING IRISHMAN | |
| | | with Gene Reynolds | |
| 39 | | LOVE AFFAIR | |
| | | with Richard Nichols | |
| 39 | | MICKEY THE KID | |
| | | with Tommy Ryan | |
| 39 | | OUR NEIGHBOUS – THE CARTERS | |
| | | with Bennie Bartlett | |
| 39 | | THE ROYAL RODEO | |



Aged 16, and all but unrecognisable as the same person, in "HER ADVENTUROUS NIGHT"

Source: The Universal Story

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| 40 | 10 | THE BLUE BIRD | |
| | | with Shirley Temple, Johnny Russell, Tommy Baker, Billy Cook, Dickie Moore, Silas "Buster" Phelps, Tommy Tucker | |
| 40 | | CINDERELLA'S FELLER | |
| 40 | | FLAG OF HUMANITY | |
| 40 | | GOLD RUSH MAISIE | |
| 40 | | MY FAVOURITE WIFE | |
| 40 | | MY SON, MY SON! | as Oliver |
| 40 | | STREET OF MEMORIES | |
| 41 | 11 | ALOMA OF THE SOUTH SEAS | |
| | | with Billy Roy | |
| 41 | | FATHER'S SON | |
| | | with Billy Dawson, Sonny Bupp, Phillip Hurlic, Sammy McKim, Bobby Winkler | |
| 41 | | KING'S ROW | |
| | | with Douglas Croft, Douglas Scott | |
| 41 | | THE VANISHING VIRGINIAN | |
| | | with Dickie Jones, Charley Bates | |
| 42 | 12 | BETWEEN US GIRLS | |
| 42 | | IT HAPPENED IN FLATBUSH | |
| 43 | 13 | ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES | |
| 43 | | THE BOY FROM STALINGRAD | |
| | | with Bobby Samartzich, Conrad Binyon | |
| 43 | | GOOD LUCK, MR YATES | |
| | | with Conrad Binyon, Tommy Cook, Bobby Larson, Billy Roy, Rudy Wissler | |
| 43 | | HEAVEN CAN WAIT | |
| | | with Gary Gray, Bobby Larson | |
| 43 | | MY REPUTATION | |
| | | with Darwood Kaye | |
| 43 | | THE YOUNGEST PROFESSION | |
| 44 | 14 | THE CLIMAX | |
| 45 | 15 | CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE | |
| | | with Billy Cummings, Harry McKim, Jerry Mickelsen, Leon Tyler | |
| 45 | | JUNIOR MISS | |
| 46 | 16 | HER ADVENTUROUS NIGHT | in central role, 14? |
| 46 | | THE JOLSON STORY | as the young Jolson |
| 46 | | MY REPUTATION | |
| | | with Bobby Cooper, Darwood Kaye | |
| 47 | 17 | CYNTHIA | |



APP SHERIDAN · ROBERT CUMMINGS · RONALD REAGAN · BETTY FIELD · "KINGS ROW" — A Warner Bros. First National Picture

Age 11 in "KING'S ROW"

Source: indeterminate website



APP SHERIDAN · ROBERT CUMMINGS · RONALD REAGAN · BETTY FIELD · "KINGS ROW" — A Warner Bros. First National Picture



Age 9 in **"THE ROYAL RODEO"**

Source: indeterminate website

47		DANGEROUS YEARS	
		with Dickie Moore, Darryl Hickman	
48	18	A DATE WITH JUDY	
48		MICHAEL O'HALLORAN	in title role
		with Tommy Cook	
49	19	BATTLEGROUND	
50	20	<u>THE HAPPY YEARS</u>	
		with Dean Stockwell, Donn Gift, Jerry Mickelsen, Danny Mummert	
		Darryl Hickman	
50		LOUISA	
		with Jimmy Hunt	
50		NANCY GOES TO RIO	
51	21	CORKY OF GASOLINE ALLEY	in title role