

# Curt Bois

Titles: 6      Sources: 1      Stills: 1

Born: Berlin; April 5<sup>th</sup> 1901  
Died: Berlin; December 25<sup>th</sup> 1991



A contemporary souvenir postcard of Bois on stage with Grete Dierkes in  
"Der Fidele Bauer", circa 1908      Source: The Moving Picture Boy



### The Moving Picture Boy entry:

“Bois made his stage debut at the age of six. There even survives a 1908 gramophone record of the little Curt, as “Wunderkind Heinerle” in Leo Fall’s operetta “Der Fidele Bauer“, singing a duet with his unfortunate mother (Crete Dierkes) in which he nags for toys she can’t afford. The operetta was subsequently filmed, and commemorated on postcards.

Between 1914 and 1920, Curt Bois toured with the Drawing Room Humorist Revue, but kept on acting in plays and films – with star roles in “DER JÜNGELING AUS DER KONFEKTION“ (26) and “DER FÜRST VON PAPPENHEIM“ (27). In 1933, like Wolfgang Zilzer, he left Germany, progressing via Vienna, Paris and London to the USA.

He made his Broadway debut in 1935, and became even more of a Hollywood indispensable than Zilzer, from “TOVARICH“ and “GOLD DIGGERS IN PARIS“ to “COVER GIRL“ and “THE GREAT SINNER“. He could be a slippery waiter, a camp sophisticate or a quivering drunk, he could (as in “CASABLANCA“) be a pickpocket.

Bois returned to Germany in 1950. He played Gogol’s “Govenment Inspector“ in East Berlin, and two years later, with the Berliner Ensemble, created the role of Puntila – the rich master who is only humane when drunk – in Brecht’s “Herr Puntila und sein Knecht Matti“. (He repeated his performance in 1955, in Cavalcanti’s Austrian film version of the play.)

He also directed a film of his own, “EIN POLTERABEND“ (DD 55). Thereafter, his career continued in West Germany, with much stage work, notably his Malvolio in a “Twelfth Night“ directed by Fritz Kortner. He was still acting as late as 1987, in Wim Wenders’s film “DER HIMMEL ÜBER BERLIN“.

In 1981, Curt Bois published his memoirs, “Zu wahr, um schön zu sein“ (“Too true to be good“). He had been a true delight.”

## FILMOGRAPHY

| Year | Age | Title                                                                                       | Role            |
|------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 08   | 7   | DER FIDELE BAUER<br>("The Merry Peasant")                                                   | as Heinerl      |
| 09   | 8   | KLEBOLIN KLEBT ALLES<br>("Gummo Sticks Anything")                                           |                 |
| 09   |     | DER KLEINE DETEKTIV<br>("The Little Detective")                                             | in title role ? |
| 09   |     | MUTTERLIEBE: BAUERNHOF UND GRAFENSCHLOSS<br>("Motherly Love: Farmhouse and Count's Castle") |                 |
| 12   | 11  | DES PFARRERS TÖCHTERLEIN<br>("The Parson's Little Daughter")                                |                 |
| 13   | 12  | DAS GESCHENK DES INDERS<br>("The Indian's Gift")                                            |                 |