

George Breakston

Titles: 11 Sources: 2 Stills: 3

Born: Paris; January 22nd 1920
Died: Paris; May 21st 1973



Looking soulful at the grave of his family in "GREAT EXPECTATIONS" – his performance and the film eclipsed by Anthony Wager and David Lean in 1946
Source: The Moving Picture Boy

Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion entry:

"American who, born in France, went to Hollywood as a child and acted for several years; later went to Africa and produced many routine adventure films and TV series, usually with British backing."

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"Although George's father was American, his mother was French, and France was where he came into the world and left it. The Breakstons moved to America when he was seven, and he began getting radio and stage work in New York and Los Angeles, long before his debut in films. This frail, fair-haired boy, with cloudy blue eyes and a cowlick, inspired affection and protectiveness in the manner, later, of Claude Jarman, John Howard Davies and Mark Lester."

He was doubly touching when being heroic, notably in **"NO GREATER GLORY"**, the first

American version of Ferenc Molnar's



*Let's play SPOT THE QUISLING. The boy to the left is unidentified, but Breakston is right, Jackie Searl centre, in **"NO GREATER GLORY"***
Source: Those Endearing Young Charms

popular 1907 novel "A Pál Utcai Fiúk" ("The Boys of Paul Street"), which had already been filmed in Hungary in 1924, and would be again in 1968. Dying gloriously of pneumonia contracted in a desperate exploit against the opposing gang (leader, Frankie Darro), and with Jimmy Butler and Donald Haines among the grateful comrades gathered round his bedside, little George is a figure of admirable pathos.

He tapped the vein again in **"GREAT EXPECTATIONS"** (as young Pip), **"MRS WIGGS OF THE CABBAGE PATCH"** and **"THE RETURN OF PETER GRIMM"**. As a teenager, George played Mickey Rooney's friend Breezy in some of the Andy Hardy films, and had small parts in **"SWANEE RIVER"** (39) and **"THE GRAPES OF WRATH"** (40). During World War Two he was a military cameraman in the Pacific battle zone, and didn't return to acting when it was over. Instead, he took to writing and directing for television and the cinema, usually choosing exotic or open-air subjects, as in **"THE SCARLET SPEAR"** (54) and the TV series **"African Patrol"** and **"Jungle Boy"**. He also directed the fine British boy actor Frazer McIntosh in two films of the mid-Sixties."



*Also from **"NO GREATER GLORY"** – George expires under a halo of heroic sacrifice. Source: NFT Bulletin*

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
34	14	GREAT EXPECTATIONS with Jackie Searl	as Pip
34		IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT	
34		MRS WIGGS OF THE CABBAGE PATCH with Jimmy Butler	
34		<u>NO GREATER GLORY</u> with Jackie Searl, Bruce Line, Tad Alexander, Jimmy Butler, Donald Haines, Frankie Darro	
34		SUCCESSFUL FAILURE	
35	15	THE DARK ANGEL with Jimmy Butler	
35		LIFE RETURNS with Tommy Bupp	
35		THE RETURN OF PETER GRIMM	
36	16	BOULDER DAM with Ronnie Cosbey	
36		SECOND WIFE with Rex Downing, Lee Van Atta	
36		SMALL TOWN GIRL with Silas "Buster" Phelps, Billy Watson	
38	18	LOVE FINDS ANDY HARDY with Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland, Gene Reynolds	as Breezy
39	19	JESSE JAMES with Leonard Kibrick, Sidney Kibrick, Johnny Russell	
39		SWANEE RIVER with Matthew "Stymie" Beard, George Billings	
40	20	THE GRAPES OF WRATH with Darryl Hickman, Wally Albright	
42	22	THE COURTSHIP OF ANDY HARDY	as Breezy

* He produced and directed "THE BOY CRIED MURDER" in 1966