

Ted Donaldson

Titles: 17 Sources: 4 Stills: 2

Born: New York City; August 20th 1933
Son of radio personalities Will and Muriel Donaldson
Educated at Professional Children's School, New York



His screen debut as Pinky Thompson in **"ONCE UPON A TIME"**

Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*

Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion entry:

"American child star of the forties."

Film Reel biographical quip:

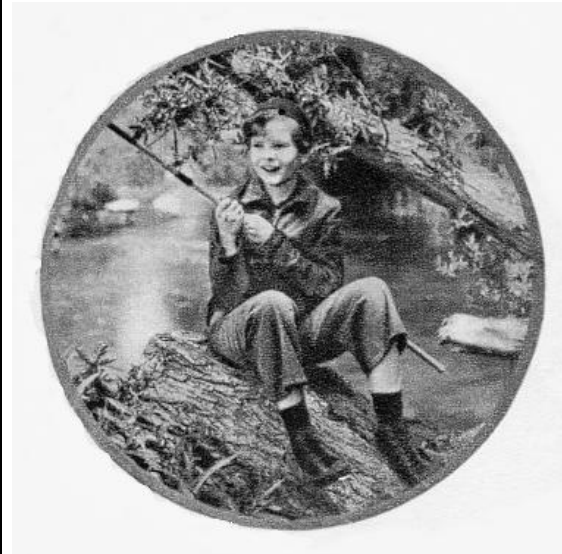
"Ted Donaldson, 13-year old wonder actor now doing the title role in "**CHRISTOPHER BLAKE**" at Warner's, faces a terrible penalty should he ever become egotistical because of his success. According to his parents, he will have to wash the dishes every day!"

Those Endearing Young Charms entry:

"Deep hazel eyes and red blond hair. "Pudge" Donaldson, so nicknamed because he weighed 87 pounds at the age of nine, was the son of Will and Muriel Donaldson, radio personalities and composers. He began his moppet career [*sic*] at the age of four when he did a Christmas show over the air with "The Singing Lady", Irene Wicker. Ted continued doing radio chores until he was six in such programmes as "Between the Book Ends", "Life Can Be Beautiful", "Against the Storm" and "Aunt Jenny".

At the age of seven, Ted made his debut on the stage with "Life With Father". Two years later, having outgrown the stage, he switched over to the movies, signing a contract with Columbia Pictures. Columbia saw in Ted the perfect Pinky Thompson, the boy with the dancing caterpillar, who was to appear in the film "**ONCE UPON A TIME**". The film turned out to be a rewarding one for him, as he won the Critics Award and gave one of the top ten juvenile acting performances for 1944.

Ted was a fine imitator and could act out a wide range of emotions. He was also a master of dialects and could speak with a French, British, Spanish, Irish and Scottish accent. Ted's hobbies were baseball and performing magic. Most of his education was acquired at the Professional Children's School in New York."



Fishing off duty

Source:

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"It somehow restored one's faith in Hollywood's integrity that the boy who probably had more leading parts than any other in the Forties was so magnificently unglamorous and un-All American. "Pudge" Donaldson, in his earlier films at least, was not just pudgy but downright flabby. You couldn't help warming to the lad – especially as he turned out to have a nice crisp way with lines and a tough-guy accent to deliver them in.

His parents, Will Donaldson and Muriel Pollock, wrote and arranged light music for the radio, the medium on which their ginger-haired four-year old launched his career and became known for his command of dialects and foreign accents and his powers of mimicry. He began training as an actor, and played in such stage hits of the early Forties as "Life With Father" and "Sons and Soldiers".

Then he was chosen to co-star with Cary Grant in a whimsical film comedy, "**ONCE UPON A TIME**", about a little boy called Pinky who keeps a dancing caterpillar in a matchbox. While it dances, it sings "Yes Sir, That's My Baby", to the delight of Grant, who sees in it a means of restoring his fortunes. He behaves with ruthless cynicism, till shamed into decency by Master Donaldson.

While Ted's looks improved as he entered his teens, he became identified (like Mark Dennis, Teddy Infuhr and others) with an interminable series centred on a dog called Rusty, though he

also had leads in "**PERSONALITY KID**", "**THE RED STALLION**" and "**THE DECISION OF CHRISTOPHER BLAKE**".

Ted Donaldson had two films in 1952, "**PHONE CALL FROM A STRANGER**" and "**RAGING WATERS**", but the roles were secondary and the screen career got no further. In the late 1970s he was working in a movie bookstore in Hollywood."

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
deb 44	11	ONCE UPON A TIME with Charley Bates, Gary Gray	as Pinky Thompson
44		MR WINKLE GOES TO WAR with Tommy Cook, Bobby Larson, Harry McKim	
45	12	THE ADVENTURES OF RUSTY with David Ackles, Gary Gray, Bobby Larson, Douglas Madore	
45		A GUY, A GAL AND A PAL	
45		A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN with Peggy Ann Garner	as Neeley Nolan
46	13	PERSONALITY KID with Bobby Larson	
46		THE RETURN OF RUSTY with Gene Collins, Mark Dennis, Dwayne Hickman, Teddy Infuhr, Mickey Kuhn	
47	14	FOR THE LOVE OF RUSTY with Dwayne Hickman, Teddy Infuhr, George Nokes	
47		THE RED STALLION	
47		SON OF RUSTY with David Ackles, Dwayne Hickman, Teddy Infuhr	
47		THE HAL ROACH COMEDY CARNIVAL	
48	15	THE DECISION OF CHRISTOPHER BLAKE	
48		MY DOG RUSTY with David Ackles, Dwayne Hickman, Teddy Infuhr	
48		RUSTY LEADS THE WAY with Dwayne Hickman, Teddy Infuhr, Mickey Kuhn	
49	16	THE GREEN PROMISE	
49		RUSTY SAVES A LIFE with Dwayne Hickman, Jimmy Hunt, Teddy Infuhr	
49		RUSTY'S BIRTHDAY with Mark Dennis, Dwayne Hickman, Jimmy Hunt, Teddy Infuhr	
52	19	PHONE CALL FROM A STRANGER	
52		RAGING WATERS	

[No fewer than six of his wartime and postwar films are absent from every film guide so far consulted. Programme-fillers they may be, but they can't have vanished from human ken altogether!]