

Johnny Downs

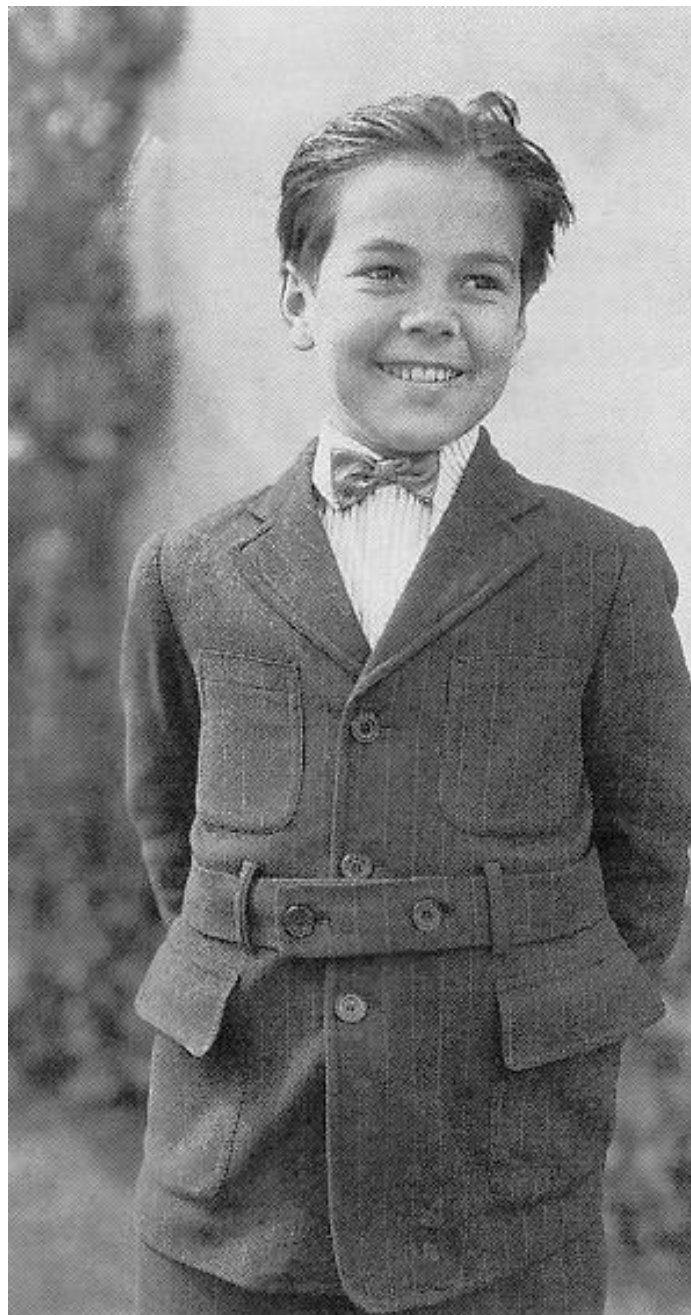
Titles: 28

Sources: 2

Stills: 2

Born: John Morey Downs; Brooklyn, NY; October 10th 1913

Died: Coronado, California; June 6th 1994



Behold Edwardian boy, circa 1926

Source: The Moving Picture Boy

Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion entry:

"American light leading man and dancer, former member of **"Our Gang"**."

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"At ten, John Morey Downs was already looking like a college boy, and didn't change too much during the next forty years. His 1923 **"Our Gang"** debut in **"THE CHAMPEEN"** was a bit-part only, and it was two more years before he was recalled to **Gang** service as a regular, playing one of the maturer kids – sometimes a bully, though his nature was too nice for this to be wholly convincing.

Approaching 14, Johnny left the **Gang** and appeared in "proper films", not all of them light-hearted. His agonised ascent of a steep and seemingly endless staircase in Vidor's

"THE CROWD", on hearing of his father's heart attack, is one of the classic images of the silent cinema.

Soon Downs was old enough to play real college-boy parts, and as he had a pleasant singing voice he was in a whole string of musicals in the mid-Thirties. When college boys went out of fashion in Hollywood things got leaner, so he turned to vaudeville and then TV.

Apart from a few unmemorable film roles in the Fifties (for instance **"THE CADDY"** and other Martin and Lewis frolics) his cinema career was over. He now settled contentedly to his new role as TV host, and between 1954 and 1971 fronted a kids' show called **"The Magic Key"**."

FILMOGRAPHY

	Year	Age	Title	Role
deb	23	10	THE CHAMPEEN with Our Gang	
	25	12	- Our Gang shorts (x9) -	
	26	13	- Our Gang shorts (x10) -	
	27	14	- Our Gang shorts (x3) -	
	27		THE CROWD with <i>Freddie Burke Frederick</i>	
	27		JESSE JAMES	
	27		OUTLAWS OF RED RIVER	
	27		VALLEY OF THE GIANTS	
	29	16	THE TRAIL OF '98	
	35	22	THE CLOCK STRIKES EIGHT	