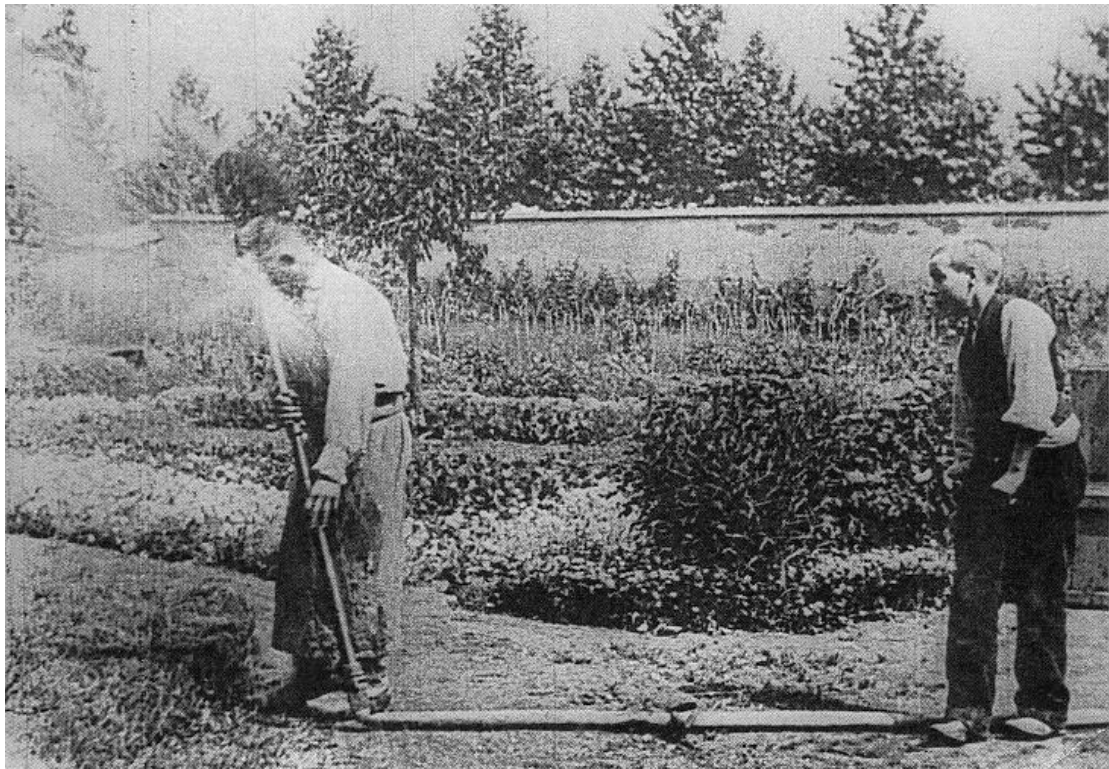


“Le Petit” Duval

Titles: 1 Sources: 1 Stills: 1

Born: France; c1881



The first child actor in world cinema, and he is up to mischief right away. Indeed, the screen's first boy actor gets his bottom tanned within seconds of appearing. The spanking as comic payoff made its debut back in 1895.

Source: The Moving Picture Boy

The Cinema note:

“Almost from the beginning.. film-makers began to plan and rehearse simple little dramatic or comic scenes which would fit into the running time of their film. There were several such subjects in the first programmes of the Lumière brothers, especially the one now known as "Teasing the Gardener" ("L'ARROSEUR ARROSÉ") in which a small boy treads on a gardener's hose; when the gardener looks down the nozzle, the boy lifts his foot, and the gardener is drenched; he catches the boy and beats him.”

The Moving Picture Boy review:

“The clever Louis Lumière - a manufacturer of photographic products in Lyon – didn't quite invent the movie camera: that was Thomas Edison in 1889. But Edison's Kinetoscope was only a kind of peepshow, and Lumière had the wit to devise its necessary adjunct, the film projector. In his first public show, in Paris at the end of 1895, he offered tiny home movies and one or two documentary snippets: a train arriving at a railway station (the audience flinched as it steamed towards them), workers leaving the Lumière factory. There was also a half-minute joke (rather a venerable one)

called "L'ARROSEUR ARROSÉ", or "LE JAR-DINIER ET LE PETIT ESPIEGLE". The little rascal in question was thus the screen's first child actor, perpetrator of the screen's first prank.

Assisting a gardener who is watering the flowers, the gardener's boy slyly puts his foot on the hosepipe. The flow of water stops, the gardener peers into the nozzle to see what can be blocking it, the boy withdraws his foot, the gardener is drenched, the laughing boy is scragged.

In medium shot, as in most early movies before the heyday of the close-up, we get no clear impression of the rascal's face. But this crop-headed, skinny kid in shirt sleeves and corduroys already offers a potent image of the Labouring Lad as well as of the Mischief-Maker and Menace. The gardener's boy was played by a young apprentice from the Lumière factory in Lyon. With a less common name than Duval, he might even have been traceable. The gardener (a genuine one) was another Lumière employee, François Clerc."

FILMOGRAPHY			
Year	Age	Title	Role
deb 1895		L'ARROSEUR ARROSÉ / LE JARDINIER ET LE PETIT ESPIEGLE ["The Hoser Hosed"]	as the boy