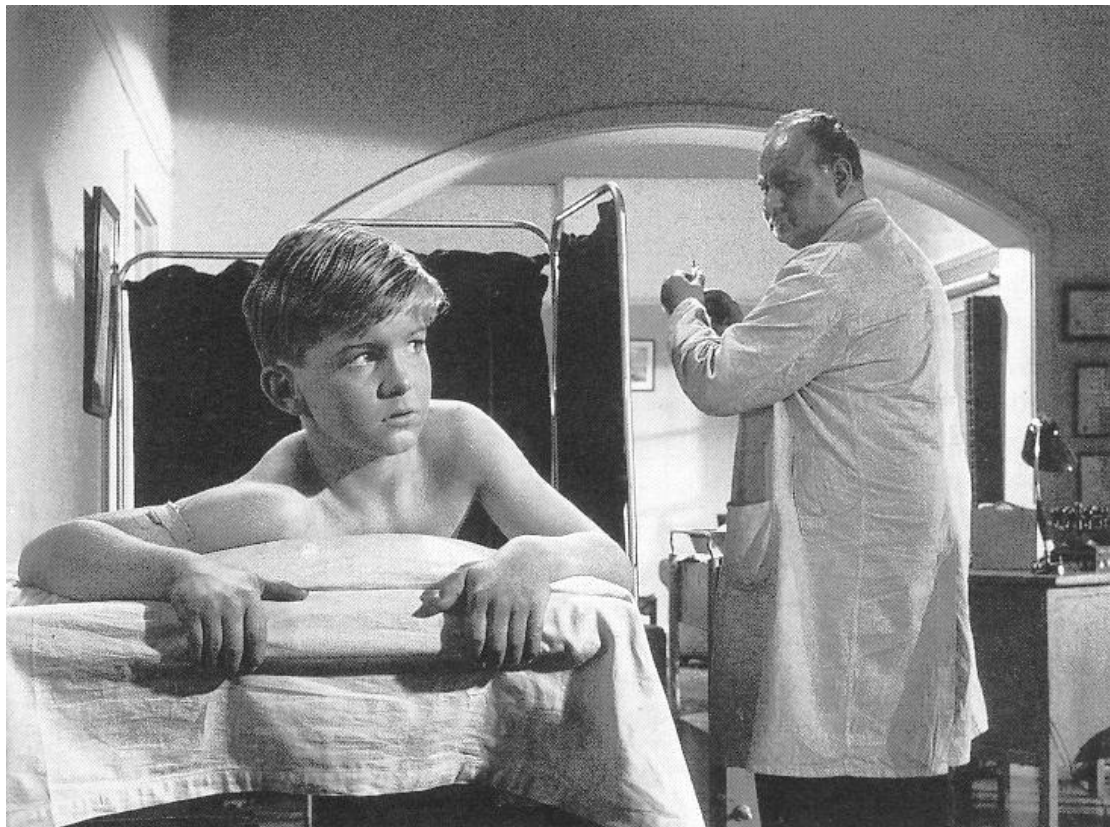


Fergus McClelland

Titles: 4 Sources: 4 Stills: 2

Born: Hampstead, London; September 10th 1950
Son of Irish actor Alan McClelland

Buxom blond English boy who starred in Alexander Mackendrick's unexciting adaptation of "**SAMMY GOING SOUTH**". The film only sputtered briefly to life in his sequences with grizzled old diamond smuggler Edward G Robinson. The screenwriter's evident lack of empathy with boys reduces Sammy to a cardboard character, which is no reflection upon McClelland's abilities. Sammy is a brave little soldier, trudging manfully on and developing a healthy suspicion of adults and their motives as the journey progresses. Scope for a remake there, from a director with more interest in his central character than the adults he meets on his wanderings.



"Have you heard the one about the arab boy and the bed of nails..?"

Source: The Moving Picture Boy



Source: *Films & Filming* May 63

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

“Like Christian Bale in **"EMPIRE OF THE SUN"**, young Fergus - son of the Irish actor Alan McClelland - was required in **"SAMMY GOING SOUTH"** to represent a middle-class British schoolboy brought face to face with war and the grim realities of life. Since Sammy's ordeal involves finding his way the length of Africa, from Port Said to Durban, it is less claustrophobic than imprisoned Jim's. Though a rather confected Odyssey, and no more Alexander Mackendrick's finest film than **"EMPIRE.."** is Spielberg's, this softened version of W.H. Canaway's novel offered Fergus McClelland the chance to see spectacular landscapes and to meet an assortment of exotic animals, including Edward G Robinson as a grizzled hunter with a Hemingway beard and a sideline in smuggled diamonds.

As the pompously manly little Brit, Fergus was superb, rightly suspicious of the motives of most of his "helpers", and singing defiantly to himself when alone. On the strength of his performance he got work with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and played Jim Hawkins in the Mermaid Theatre's "Treasure Island" of Christmas 1963. He did a good deal of TV work, including several weeks in the hospital soap opera **"Emergency Ward 10"**. After marginal roles in **"PRESS FOR TIME"** (66) and the musical **"GOODBYE MR CHIPS"** (69), Fergus abandoned the acting profession. He now supports himself, and his interest in music and ancient religions, by work in electronics, and has been writing a novel on an Old Testament subject.”

“...ultimately it is in the character of Sammy (Fergus McClelland) that Mackendrick excels; he is shown as a nasty little tyke, who uses everyone more than they use him.”

- **The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television**

“...However, Fergus McClelland is a likable lad, and his scenes with wizened diamond smuggler Edward G Robinson are of a very high order.”

- **Radio Times**

“...Fergus McClelland's own performance as Sammy is not lightly to be dismissed either. How much of it came from the director working through him can only be guessed at, but the result is exactly right...”

- **Films & Filming**, May 63

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
63	13	SAMMY GOING SOUTH [aka "A Boy Ten Feet Tall"]	in title role, Sammy Hartland (10)
--	--	Emergency Ward 10	UK TV hospital soap
64	14	THE PUMPKIN EATER with Gregory Phillips, Christopher Ellis	
66	16	PRESS FOR TIME	
69	19	GOODBYE MR CHIPS with Sean Bury	