

Roy Royston

Titles: 18 Sources: 1 Stills: 0

Born: Roy Charles Crowden; Mill Hill, London; April 5th 1899
Died: Kingston-upon-Thames, October 7th 1976
Brother of Marie and Gerald Royston [qv]

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"Sympathisers with the harassed clergyman in John Gilling's **"PLAGUE OF THE ZOMBIES"** of 1965, as the hands and arms of the undead sprout like daffodils through the hallowed loam of his churchyard, may not realise that this had once been a blithe boy star of British knockabout comedy. But Roy Royston (born Roy Charles Crowden, though no relation to the admirable Graham Crowden of recent British comedies) had half a century earlier enjoyed two or three hectic years as the kid hero in the films of Lewis Fitzhamon, usually in partnership with his sister Marie.

Roy made his stage debut in December 1910, at the Haymarket Theatre, London, as Tyltyl in a revival of Maeterlinck's *"Blue Bird"*. From 1912, movies took priority for a while, but for the rest of his long career he kept the two strands in tandem.

Besides abundant stage work, Royston appeared sporadically in British films for the rest of his life: they included **"ONE SUMMER'S DAY"** (17), **"MR WU"** (19), **"THE MAGISTRATE"** (21), **"JUST FOR A SONG"** (30), **"THE BIG SPLASH"** (35), **"CONQUEST OF THE AIR"** (40) and of course **"THE PLAGUE OF THE ZOMBIES"** (65).

During World War Two – doubtless influenced by his flying film, **"CONQUEST OF THE AIR"** – he served in the RAF, reaching the rank of squadron leader.

Roy's younger brother Gerald Royston also appeared in a handful of films, including a

1914 version of **"LITTLE LORD FAUNTLEROY"...**

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
12	13	<u>CHILDREN OF THE FOREST</u> with sister <i>Marie</i>	as The Boy
12		A DAY IN THE COUNTRY with sister <i>Marie</i>	
12		THE PONY WHO PAID THE RENT	
12		REPAYING THE DEBT	
13	14	ALGY'S TORMENTOR	
13		A BORE OF A BOY	
13		DADDY'S DARLINGS	
13		A DAY ON ROLLERS	
13		FREDDIE'S DUMB PLAYMATES	
13		THE GIRL NEXT DOOR	
13		LITTLE WILLIE'S APPRENTICESHIPS	
13		THREE LITTLE VAGABONDS	
13		WHEN THE HURRICANES VISITED THE DOUGHNUTS	
14	15	THE LOOSENED PLANK	
14		WHEN THE HURRICANES BOUGHT THE LINO	
14		WHEN THE HURRICANES TOOK UP FARMING	
14		WHEN THE HURRICANES VISITED THE SAWMILLS	
14		THE WHIRLWIND KIDS	
17	18	ONE SUMMER'S DAY	
19	20	MR WU	
21	22	THE MAGISTRATE	