

Sean Scully

Titles: 5 Sources: 1 Stills: 2

Born: Sydney, Australia ?; 1947

One of the brighter, more engaging stars in Disney's firmament, more a personality than a pretty face. His twin role in "**THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER**", notwithstanding a faint Australian accent, was an altogether feistier performance than the Mauch twins 25 years previously, and his relationship with the long-suffering Miles Hendon a genuine hoot. He seems to have done no TV work, and apart from a mere five films his boyhood career was confined to the London stage. A friend of mine met him in Australia years later, where he continues to act, and found him still an appealing personality.



The coronation scene, and some care lavished on the costume design, but are those Tudor hairstyles? Not as such. Laurence Naismith must give the ring of power to one of these hobbits, ah but which one? It all hinges on the whereabouts of a nutcracker, otherwise known as the Great Seal.

Source: original front of house still

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"During much of his childhood, this highly intelligent young Australian lived with his mother in London, where he trained as an actor and was seen on the stage, notably in *"Treasure Island"*, playing a spunky Jim Hawkins to the Long John Silver of Bernard Miles. ("A bright-eyed squirrel of a boy who spits delightfully," said the New Statesman.) Then he was spotted and signed up by the Disney organisation.

In **"ALMOST ANGELS"**, a kind of **"ALL ABOUT EVE"** rethought in terms of the Vienna Boys' Choir, Sean played the Bette Davis part of the supplanted prima donna, and Vincent Winter an innocent version of the Anne Baxter. It's a hilarious exercise, saved from total fatuity by Winter's all-conquering niceness and by Scully's angry grief when his voice breaks at the school concert.

Luckily Scully's super-treble has a second string to his bow: he is also a gifted composer and conductor. (Just a kid like any other.) Handing out manuscript parts to his Sängerknabe colleagues for an at-sight try-out on a convenient hillside, he has only to wave his arms for the lads to break out into impeccable polyphony. And further triumphs are to follow. This feast of genius and Gemütlichkeit adds up to a film not to be missed.

Scully was in fact an unusually clever fellow. A year or two before **"ALMOST ANGELS"**, he had stood up on the spur of the moment and addressed bystanders at Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park, London. "An hour later," reported the Evening Standard, "twelve-year old Sean from Sydney, Australia, was still talking. The audience had swelled to more than 100, and jostled around Sean to hear his views on religion, politics, racial prejudice – the lot. Then he calmly thanked them for their attention, and went home two hours late for tea." This was clearly someone who would have few problems with a mere symphony orchestra.

In his stint for Disney, Scully starred in a British remake of **"THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER"**, playing both parts without the aid of a twin, and doing so with enormous spirit. He had the lordliness, malice and humour – reminiscent of the young Katharine Hepburn – to make the dual role convincing and interesting, and the film should be revived

more often. His last performance for Disney, and his last as a boy, was a rather thankless one in **"DR SYN"** as sidekick to the clerical smuggler.

Sean Scully – no connection, incidentally, with an artist of the same name – returned to his native Australia, where he became a valuable member of the acting community. His Antipodean films have included **"A CITY'S CHILD"** (71), **"SUNDAY TOO FAR AWAY"** (74), **"THE ROLICKING ADVENTURES OF ELIZA FRASER"** (76), **"CACTUS"** (86), and many others."



With Jane Asher as Lady Jane Grey. He asks her not to reveal he's a mere lad of the gutter, ignorant of palace protocol. She asks him not to cut her head off, a sport his father was well fond of. Source: original front of house still

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
58	11	SOUTH SEA ADVENTURE	Australia
61	14	HUNTED IN HOLLAND	
62	15	ALMOST ANGELS	Disney
		with Vincent Winter, Denis Gilmore, Hennie Scott	
62		THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER	in twin roles, Prince Edward and Tom Canty
		with Jane Asher	
63	16	DR SYN - ALIAS THE SCARECROW	Disney