

Johnny Singer

Titles: 100+

Sources: 1

Stills: 2

Born: Hastings, UK; December 4th 1923

Died: Tunbridge Wells, UK; July 7th 1987



An intimate moment from "SOMETHING ALWAYS HAPPENS"

Source: The Moving Picture Boy

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"Johnny Singer's was a ubiquitous face in British films of the Thirties: often the cheeky office junior or bossy little page-boy who would get quick laughs when the plot was flagging. In "TUDOR ROSE" he has a split-second appearance on the edge of a crowd. He does nothing but throw his cap in the air and shout "Long live the Queen!" - but nearly every 1936 filmgoer in Britain would have recognised him with affection.

Sometimes, though - as in "MY OLD DUTCH", "SOMETHING ALWAYS HAPPENS" or "THIS GREEN HELL" - he had a real leading role and grabbed it.

Johnny's first recorded public appearance was in miniature white tie and tails, winning a fancy dress competition and then conducting a brass band near Northampton. Two years later, he was billed at a Gala Novelty Dance in London as "Little John Singer of Kine-Variety and Talking Picture Fame, direct from the Criterion Restaurant... the World's Youngest Cabaret

Star". He danced, he sang, he did impressions.



He was also a famously quick learner of lines.

Singer discovers the thrills of chat-lines fifty years before the rest of the UK in "SOMETHING ALWAYS HAPPENS"
Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*

By the mid-Thirties he was regularly described as "the British Mickey Rooney", and in January 1940 he and Celia Lipton re-enacted the Rooney and Garland roles in a radio version of "BABES IN ARMS". They also sang with the Henry Hall Band. By this time Johnny had appeared in about 100 films.

He continued to act, sometimes with the little Mancunian film company - taking the romantic lead in 1942 in "SOMEWHERE IN CAMP". He was a sailor in "IN WHICH WE SERVE" (42) and in "THE CRUEL SEA" (53). But five years of war had intervened, in which - as a soldier - John Singer had taken part in the Allied invasion of Europe, done duty in Palestine, and been demobbed in 1947 with the rank of Captain.

It wasn't easy to build an acting career again, and in due course he turned to script-writing, notably (in partnership with John Warren) for the TV comedian Dick Emery, who also starred in the spin-off film "OOH - YOU ARE AWFUL" (72). After Warren's death, Singer's son Steven became his co-writer."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion", despite appearing in more than a hundred British films]

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
29	5	HIGH TREASON	
30	6	THE BLACK HAND GANG	
		with <i>Eric Pavitt</i>	
32	8	JACK'S THE BOY	
32		LOOKING ON THE BRIGHT SIDE	
32		LORD BABS	
32		LOVE ON THE SPOT	
33	9	THE BERMONDSEY KID	
		with <i>Pat Fitzpatrick</i>	
33		THE CRIME AT BLOSSOMS	
33		FACING THE MUSIC	
33		I WAS A SPY	
33		KING OF THE RITZ	
33		THE PRIDE OF THE FORCE	
34	10	THE BLUE SQUADRON	
34		LOVE AT SECOND SIGHT	
34		MY HEART IS CALLING	
34		MY OLD DUTCH	
		with <i>Pat Fitzpatrick, Eric Pavitt</i>	
34		SOMETHING ALWAYS HAPPENS	
34		THOSE WERE THE DAYS	
34		WALTZES FROM VIENNA	
35	11	CAN YOU HEAR ME, MOTHER?	
		with <i>Eric Pavitt</i>	
35		DANDY DICK	
		with <i>Eric Pavitt</i>	
35		EMIL AND THE DETECTIVES	
		with <i>John Williams, Derek Blomfield, Bobby Rietti, Desmond Tester</i>	
35		GAY OLD DOG	
35		MARRY THE GIRL	
35		MY HEART IS CALLING	
35		THE PHANTOM LIGHT	
35		THE PRICE OF A SONG	
35		ROYAL CAVALCADE	
35		STREET SONG	
36	12	THE AMATEUR GENTLEMAN	
36		KING OF THE CASTLE	
36		NOT SO DUSTY	
36		SWEENEY TODD, THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET	
36		THIS GREEN HELL	
36		TUDOR ROSE	
		with <i>Desmond Tester</i>	
37	13	THE STRANGE ADVENTURES OF MR SMITH	
37		DON'T GET ME WRONG	
37		IF I WERE BOSS	
37		IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND	
37		THE LIVE WIRE	
37		MR SMITH CARRIES ON	
37		REMEMBER WHEN	
37		SMASH AND GRAB	
37		WHAT A MAN!	
38	14	DARTS ARE TRUMPS	
38		MOTHERS OF MEN	
38		NO PARKING	
38		OLD SOLDIERS	
38		St MARTIN'S LANE	
42	18	IN WHICH WE SERVE	
42		SOMEWHERE IN CAMP	

[Holmstrom lists only 49 of his boyhood films, but on this reckoning alone he is probably the most prolific British boy actor known to the archive]