

Rupert Webster

Titles: 1 Sources: 0 Stills: 1

Born: UK

If there was an earlier boy in British cinema to be shown tucked up in his boarding school bed with an older youth, sex having implicitly taken place, then history has not recorded the event. For Rupert was the school tart Bobby Philips in Lindsay Anderson's *"if...."*. The object of much ribald gossip between the older boys, he is bequeathed as "fag" from one house prefect to another as though he were a prize racehorse. But it is Wallace, one of the sixth form renegades, who snares him, and at the film's apocalyptic close Bobby has joined the ranks of the mutineers. The scene where he gazes down at Wallace, exercising on the parallel bars in the gym, is one of the most sexually-charged sequences in 60s British cinema, Anderson drawing a parallel between sexual dissidence and the political variety. Gay commentators, characteristically, see it only as an expression of their own social construct, and not as something more profoundly anarchic, as the director intended. Webster hardly speaks a line in the entire film – creatures of desire must remain largely mute. He made no other films so far as I'm aware, and nothing else is known of him. But it was a memorable one-off, Rupert.



Bobby "fags" for the odious Jesuitical Denson, here supervising the showers...

Source: indeterminate

FILMOGRAPHY			
Year	Age	Title	Role
68	if...		as Bobby Philips with Sean Bury, Michael Newport, Martin Beaumont, Charles Sturridge, Brian Pettifer