

Born to Sing

(alternative title)

UK : 19>> : dir. >>>>> : << studio >>

: ? min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

boys / girls

Adult cast; two lines

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ € Z ☺	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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: 2177

(Unseen)

BORN TO SING

US : 1941 : dir. Edward Ludwig / Busby Berkeley [M-G-M] : 82 min

Virginia Weidler; Larry Nunn; Dickie Hall; Darla Hood; Douglas MacPhail; Leo Gorcey; Ray McDonald; Rags Ragland; Sheldon Leonard; Margaret Dumont; Henry O'Neill; Lester Matthews; Beverly Hudson; Joe Yule; Connie Gilchrist

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"A former convicted man makes songs which are judged suitable for a musical, but alas they're stolen, and the dupe is also blackmailed for his pains. A few good Berkely-style dance numbers; the kids' acting is not so hot however. ** "

Halliwell's Film Guide review:

"Kids put together a patriotic show. Curiously undernourished family musical in the wake of "BABES IN ARMS : lots of talent but no star. "

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89 review:

"Juvenile cast is surrounded by juvenile plot in this Grade-B nonsense with music thrown in. The picture's one fine moment is a rendition of "Ballad For Americans . ** "

The M-G-M Story caption to above still:

"Larry Nunn, Virginia Weidler, Leo Gorcey and Ray McDonald in "BORN TO SING , a road company "Babes musical. It had a Busby Berkeley flag-waving finale, "Ballad For Americans sung by Douglas McPhail, and everybody tried hard - but the Rooney-Garland bezazz wasn't there. Also cast: Rags Ragland, Sheldon Leonard, Henry O'Neill, Margaret Dumont, Lester Matthews, Beverly Hudson, Joe Yule, Connie Gilchrist, moppets [sic] Dickie Hall and Darla Hood. Edward Ludwig directed the Franz Spencer-Harry Clark screenplay for producer Frederick Stephani... "

[Rev: 1]

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "A Pictorial History of the Talkies", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Larry Nunn:

"If he'd been born a few years earlier, Nunn, a fair, skinny-eyed boy with a hard-bitten expression, would have been a natural DEAD END KID. But street-wisdom tangled effectively with pathos in "MEN OF BOYS' TOWN". He appeared on stage in Seattle at the age of four, after which he performed in theatres, clubs and churches. He was a member of a well-known children's orchestra, and became a regular on a local radio show. Busby Berkeley heard about him, and gave him a leading role in "STRIKE UP THE BAND". Nunn was in "THE NAVY WAY" ('44), and had a good part in "DESPERATE" ('47). After that his screen career faded."

In 1962 Disney made a confection under the same title with Sean Scully and Vincent Winter, celebrating the charms of the Vienna Boys Choir, but it was renamed "ALMOST ANGELS" to avoid confusion with this. Virginia Weidler was 15, her earlier films including "MRS WIGGS OF THE CABBAGE PATCH" ('34), "SOULS AT SEA" ('37) and "THE PHILADELPHIA STORY" ('40). Leo Gorcey was of course leader of the positively geriatric BOWERY BOYS, here aged a spritely 26.

Larry Nunn was 14/15. His other early films included "HULLABALOO" ('40), "COFFINS ON WHEELS" ('41) and "THE MAJOR AND THE MINOR" ('42). Holmstrom gives no listing for "moppet" Dickie Hall, while Darla Hood was one of the regulars of Our Gang. Incidentally, The M-G-M Story regrets the absence of Mickey Rooney in this picture, but neglects to mention the presence in the cast of his father. Rooney's real name was Joe Yule Jr.

See subject index under MUSICALS.

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available

See also "**BADKONAK-E SEFID**" and "**BASHU**" - both recent Iranian films, and subject index under **ARAB WORLD / MIDDLE EAST**.