

The Callahans and the Murphys

US : 1927 : dir. George Hill : M-G-M

Silent : ? min

prod: : scr: Frances Marion : dir.ph.:

Turner Savage; Jackie Coombs; Monty O'Grady; Dawn O'Day

Frank Currier; Gertrude Olmstead; Eddie Gribbon; Marie Dressler; Polly Moran; Sally O'Neill;
Lawrence Grey; Tom Lewis

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ ∅ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Source for all stills unless indicated: *The Silents Majority website*

The Silents Majority website caption:

"The cast of the lost film **"THE CALLAHANS AND THE MURPHYS"** (M-G-M, 1927). Adults, from left to right: Frank Currier, Gertrude Olmstead, Eddie Gribbon, Marie Dressler, director George Hill, Polly Moran, Lawrence Grey, Sally O'Neill and Tom Lewis. Kids, from left to right: Turner Savage, Jackie Coombs, Monty O'Grady and Dawn O'Day (later Anne Shirley)."

- Diane MacIntyre

The M-G-M Story review:

" **"THE CALLAHANS AND THE MURPHYS"** marked the MGM debut of one of the studio's best-loved stars: Marie Dressler. It didn't seem likely when the film was made in 1927; at 58 Miss Dressler had known fame in musical comedy, vaudeville and movies (**"TILLIE'S PUNCTURED ROMANCE"**, 1914). Then came hard times, and she was

about to give up the show business struggle
when her friend, scenarist Frances Marion,



wrote this script with Marie in mind and
persuaded Mayer and Thalberg to cast her in it.
George Hill directed the story of two feuding
slum families, the daughter of one (Sally
O'Neil) having a baby by the son of the other

(Lawrence Gray). Polly Moran and Gertrude
Olmstead were also featured. The film was not
well-received; Irish-American societies
boycotted it and it had to be withdrawn in
many areas."



Perhaps not the prettiest child the screen has ever seen – Jackie Coombs as Terrance Callahan

[no listing in "Classics of the Silent Screen", "Hollywood in the Twenties", "A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen", "Silent Movies: A Picture Quiz Book", "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "The Moving

Picture Boy", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "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. Featured by The Silents Majority on their "lost films" list, despite being a very late entry in the silent cinema. The displeasure of the Irish community put paid to it altogether, apparently. Of interest to us purely for the MGM child players featured, though of the four only Dawn O'Day (Anne Shirley) made any kind of a mark. None of the three boys is mentioned in *The Moving Picture Boy*. Anne Shirley (9) went on to make "**SO BIG**" (32), "**ANNE OF GREEN GABLES**" (35), "**STELLA DALLAS**" (37) and "**ANNE OF WINDY POPLARS**" (40), but her other silent titles are not presently known. Her real name was Dawn Paris.

See subject index under **COMEDY** and **SILENT CINEMA**.



