

Christmas Cheer

US : 1929 : dir. : Silent : ? min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
 Lawrence McKeen
 Adult cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5805	1.5	0	1	425	-	-	-	-	-	No	unseen



Santa has his work cut out fulfilling some expectations – note the richness of detail and tone in this carefully-composed still
 Source: The Moving Picture Boy

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Lawrence McKeen:

"This highly successful and impish baby, of an Irish family, sprang to fame with the filming, from 1926, of George McManus' popular comic-strip *The Newly-Weds*". With a bizarre unicorn twist of hair, he incarnated "Baby Snookums" in such episodes as "SNOOKUMS' TOOTH", "SNOOKUMS DISAPPEARS" and "SNOOKUMS CLEANS UP", and achieved sufficient eminence to be received at the White House by President Coolidge. At the age of four, de-unicorned and renamed, Lawrence McKeen progressed to his own **Sunny Jim** series (1929-30). Alas, at eight the poor ex-Snookums died of blood poisoning."

[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", "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. I've inferred from the date and sequence that this was a silent title. It would be some years yet before all the studios converted to full sound production. Holmstrom's information is a little untidy in this instance. He gives McKeen's date of birth as January 1924, yet says he was 8 when he died in April 33, nine years later. He dates the "Baby Snookums" series as 1926-28, but McKeen's clearly still sporting his unicorn in this title, from 1929. He gives no index listing for a "**Sunny Jim**" series, although there was a "**Sonny Jim**" series (1914-15) with Bobby Connelly. And lest you suppose no small boy could be cursed with a more squirm-inducing nickname, the 1940s comedy series "**Blondie**" saw Larry Simm growing up with the handle "Baby Dumpling" (memorialised in the later *Daily Mirror* cartoon strip "*The Perishers*" with a Baby Grumplin' character).

See subject index under **CHRISTMAS, COMEDY, COMIC STRIPS & SUPERHEROES, [SILENT CINEMA](#)** and **SILENT SERIES**.