

Edgar the Explorer

US : 1920 : dir. : Goldwyn Silent : ? min
 prod: : scr: Booth Tarkington : dir.ph.:
[Johnny Jones](#); [Lucille Rickson](#)
 Adult cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ € Z ♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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*A cooking pot is wanting, but Edgar suggests a little fire will help everybody **really** get into the spirit of the thing...*
Source: The Silents Majority website

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Jones:

"Charles Edward Peil, a vigorous, keep-fit boy with rather bulging blue-grey eyes, was the son of actors. His father, Edward J Peil (1888-1958), was a beefy and often menacing stalwart of thrillers and Westerns - he played, for instance, "Evil Eye" in D.W. Griffith's "BROKEN BLOSSOMS" - while his mother, Etta Raynor, was a more graceful performer.

Though young Charlie had graced the board at six months, and been in films with Constance Talmadge (several times) and Mary Pickford (once), besides non-starring roles with the Franklin Kiddies, his identity was kept a strict secret - presumably in the interests of "real, typical American boy-next door quality" - when he was chosen to play **Edgar**, hero of some stories written specially for Goldwyn by Booth Tarkington of "Penrod" fame. (Author, also,

incidentally, in 1918, of "The Magnificent Ambersons".)

Edgar is very much a rehash of **Penrod** – the good bad boy with an over-lively imagination – and Charles Peil became plain Johnny Jones for the duration of these twelve two-reelers and some time after. (Confusingly, Edgar's kid brother Charlie was played by Charlie's kid sister Virginia.)

Changing his screen name to Edward Peil Jr, Charles/Johnny remained in movies till the 1930s."

[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. All great white hunters began in such modest ways, eh Edgar? See "**EDGAR AND THE TEACHER'S PET**" for other biographical notes, comments on the series and a list of the full twelve titles. Johnny Jones was 12 and Lucille Ricksen 13. The black boy is not identified, but he cropped up in other titles of the series, perhaps as son of the Pomeroy household cook (pictured in "**EDGAR'S LITTLE SAW**").

See subject index under **COMEDY**, **SILENT CINEMA**, **SILENT SERIES** and **BOOTH TARKINGTON**.