

Everything But the Truth

US : 1956 : dir. Jerry Hopper : Universal : 83 min
prod: Howard Christie : scr: Herb Meadow : dir.ph.:
[Tim Hovey](#)
Maureen O'Hara; John Forsyth; Frank Faylen; Barry Atwater; Les Tremayne; Philip Birch,
Addison Richards, Philip Bourneuf; Jeanette Nolan

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Courtroom drama

Source: *Bob's Child Film Stars Photo Gallery website*

Tim Hovey takes his policy of honesty first to extremes by coming out as a transvestite...

You can just imagine the boy's horror when he heard about this scene. His mind is focused on what all his friends are going to say when they find out about it.

Source:
Those Endearing
Young Charms



Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996 review:"

"When youngster Hovey joins a truth pledge crusade at school, repercussions in his family and townsfolk grow; cutesy. ** "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review - identical to above

Halliwell's Film Guide review:

"A small boy embarrasses his family by telling the truth at all times. Dum-dum formula comedy made with jaded professionalism. Scr: Herb Meadow "

Those Endearing Young Charms comment:

"Tim stars as Willie Taylor, a youngster whose insistence upon telling the truth, no matter what, creates many problems for his foster parent and the mayor of his hometown. In this scene [still above] Tim

is disguised as a girl in an effort to escape the police who think he's been kidnapped."

The Universal Story review:

"**"EVERYTHING BUT THE TRUTH"** was a mild little programmer whose *raison d'être* was clearly the role it provided for master Tim Hovey as an orphaned youngster schooled by top-billed Maureen O'Hara (as a teacher) into always telling the truth. But the truth can hurt, as the youngster's uncle (Barry Atwater) discovers to his cost, when master Hovey lets it be known that Atwater gave mayor Philip Bourneuf \$10,000 in a crooked real estate deal. The ensuing complications were the substance of Herb Meadow's screenplay, which co-starred John Forsyth (as a newspaper columnist), Frank Faylen, Les Tremayne, Philip Birch, Addison Richards and Jeanette Nolan. Howard Christie's production was aimed squarely at the family trade, and Jerry Hopper underlined the fact in his direction. (Eastmancolor 83 mins)."



*America was the first country to experiment with juvenile traffic cops. It was not an unqualified success.
Source: Bob's Child Film Stars Photo Gallery website*

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Hovey:

"Tiny Tim, a child seemingly endowed with double-jointed dimples, not only talked but read at an alarmingly early age. His father owned a sports shop in the San Fernando Valley, and took little interest in offers to get Tim into the movies, but eventually the boy went to a studio audition and landed a small

part in the **Lassie** series. At a subsequent audition he went one better and was cast in the plum role of a military academy's smallest cadet in **"THE PRIVATE WAR OF MAJOR BENSON"**.

This set the tone of cuteness which was to dog all his major parts, though not that of a troubled child of Joan Crawford in **"QUEEN**

BEE". In "**SLIM CARTER**" he was teamed with ex-stuntman hero Jock Mahoney.

Both Tim and his parents were very relaxed about his career, which came about with almost no effort. When he was 15 he simply decided to stop acting, although he'd enjoyed it well enough and had just been offered a part on Broadway in "*Critic's Choice*".

After Jesuit High School and study at the University of Colorado he applied to join the Air Force, but was rejected as being too small. For the next few years he travelled widely in Europe, Asia and Africa, then in the Seventies became sound engineer with "The Grateful Dead" and "Kingfish".

Well-invested earnings from his four years of stardom saved him from the need to work too intensively, and Hovey was said to be a notably unbitter and untwisted man. He nevertheless died of a drug overdose."

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "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"]

No further information currently available. Universal released an earlier film of the same title in 1920, with Kathleen Lewis, but it seems to have had no connection with this. In Ozu's 1957 comedy on Japanese manners "**OHAYO**" ("Good Morning"), two small boys reprimanded by their father for talking out of turn take all too literally his command to keep silent, giving offense to their neighbours in the process. More recently the Jim Carrey vehicle "**LIAR LIAR**" saw him as a defense attorney trapped by his young son's wish that his father would only tell the truth. Oh yes, and "**SUPERMAN**" *never* lies, but he's from Krypton.

[Tim Hovey](#) was 11. He made "**TOY TIGER**" the same year, "**THE PRIVATE WAR OF MAJOR BENSON**" the previous year, "**MAN AFRAID**" and "**SLIM CARTER**" in 1957 and "**MONEY, WOMEN AND GUNS**" in 1958.

See subject index under **COMEDY**, [ORPHANS / ADOPTION](#), [SCHOOL](#), and under [WOMEN AS BOYS / GIRLS AS BOYS](#) for the few rarer instances of boys cross-dressing.