

The Great Mike

US : 1944 : dir. Wallace W Fox : Pathé : 70 min
 prod: Martin Mooney : scr: : dir.ph.:
 Robert "Buzzy" Henry; Leon Tyler
 Stuart Erwin; Gwen Kenyon; Carl ("Alfalfa") Switzer; Pierre Watkin; Marion Martin;
 Edythe Elliott

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5657	1.5	3	0	607	-	-	-	-	-	No	unseen

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001 review:

"Slight tale of young Henry and his love for a horse who, predictably and after various complications, is destined to become a racing champ. ** "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"Shapeless [? = "flodderig"] horse-racing comedy-drama. Erwin plays a likeable kid who takes a rank outsider and trains him to win the big race. ** "

Film Review 1945-46 review:

"The story of three good pals; a boy, a dog and a horse; sentimental, pleasing, simple. Released: June 4th "

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Buzzy Henry:

"Robert – who soon adopted the nickname of "Buzzy", in the tradition of ridin' boys like Buzz Barton – won a medal for trick riding at the age of two in a Colorado rodeo. A mere month or two later he was filming in a Western with Buck Jones, and had made more than a dozen such pictures by the time he was five.

Buzzy or not, he was a very untypical ridin' boy: sensitive-looking (with soulful brown eyes), slender, almost delicate. Starting earlier than Barton, he had ten years as Boy Rider of

the Silver Screen. In his late teens, he continued with hardly a let-up. There were four films in 1947: "**KING OF THE WILD HORSES**", "**LAST OF THE REDMEN**", "**LAW OF THE CANYON**" and "**ROLLING HOME**".

In 1948 he was in the Tex Granger serial, and in one or two films a year during the Fifties, including "**THE INDIAN FIGHTER**" (55), "**JUBAL**" (56) and "**COWBOY**" (58). Between times he toured the rodeo circuits.

Buzz Henry was seen in some popular films of the Sixties, like "**SPENCER'S MOUNTAIN**" (63), "**SHENANDOAH**" and "**VON RYAN'S EXPRESS**" (65) and "**TONY ROME**" (67). But he was also in demand as a technical adviser, stunt coordinator and sequence director, and was frequently the second unit director, for instance on "**THE COWBOYS**" (72). His untimely death came at the age Of 40."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "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. Buzzy Henry was 13. Most of his films appear to have been small studio programme-fillers and Western serials, gathering dust now in film archives, although "**WILD BEAUTY**" (46) has been broadcast several times in recent years. Perhaps '**BUZZY AND THE PHANTOM PINTO**' (41) was the high point of his saddle-sore career, getting himself a name check in the title. In 1946 he was "**DANNY BOY**" (the third film of that name), and also had a small role in "**DRAGONWYCK**", comparatively more of a prestige production. Ex-**Our Ganger** Leon Tyler, also 13, specialised – according to Holmstrom – in "amusing wimplets". His films included "**ON THE SUNNY SIDE**" (a wartime flag-waver with Roddy McDowall), "**I DOOD IT**" (43), "**THE HITLER GANG**" (44) and "**SON OF LASSIE**" (45). Former **Our Gang** star Switzer was now 18. In 1959 he would be shot dead in a brawl over a bear-hunting business.

See subject index under **DOGS** and **HORSES & PONIES**.