

Her Adventurous Night

US : 1946 : dir. John Rawlins : Universal : 73 min
 prod: Charles F Haas : scr: Jerry Warner : dir.ph.:
Scotty Beckett
 Dennis O'Keefe; Helen Walker; Tom Powers; Fuzzy Knight; Charles Judels; Milburn Stone;
 Betty Compson

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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For pity's sake Scotty! What happened to you? Puberty's not that traumatic! Source: *The Universal Story*

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996 review:

"Youngster with wild imagination fabricates a tale of murder and crime, causing his parents to go to jail and the youth's life put in peril. ****1/2**"¹

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review - identical to above

Halliwell's Film Guide review:

"An imaginative boy spreads a story which lands his headmaster in jail, but absolves

¹ He cites four cast members, but does not mention the lead, Beckett

himself by solving a murder mystery. Agreeable minor comedy for the hinterlands. Scr: Jerry Warner "

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89 review:

"Young boy innocently implicates his parents in a robbery and murder. ****1/2**"

The Universal Story review:

"Though Dennis O'Keefe and Helen Walker were the stars of "**HER ADVENTUROUS NIGHT**", it was their son, 14-year old Scotty Beckett, around whom most of the action pivoted. Being an over-imaginative youngster, Beckett, when found with a pistol in his

possession, invents a way-out story that lands both his parents and the school's principal in jail. How he gets them released by solving a murder mystery just one year older than himself, formed the content of Jerry Warner's rather juvenile screenplay which John Rawlins directed for producer Charles F Haas; and with a cast that included Fuzzy Knight, Tom Powers, Charles Judels, Milburn Stone and Betty Compson."

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", 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"]

Excerpt from **The Moving Picture Boy** entry on Scotty Beckett:

"...He was a girlishly pretty child, with fine dark eyes somewhat in the Jackie Coogan mould. The expression, though, lacked Coogan's steel - it was sweet, but slightly weary and petulant. It was the resemblance to the great Jackie, undoubtedly, which led Hal Roach, when he signed him up with **OUR GANG** in 1934, to dress Scotty up in a big cap (baseball, sideways on) and super-sloppy sweater. He was teamed with Spanky McFarland in a shrimp duo, rather as another cherub, Dickie Moore, had been teamed with Stymie Beard a couple of years earlier.

Beckett moved on even sooner than Moore. After less than two years he yielded to Alfalfa Switzer as Spanky's partner in mischief, and ceased to be a regular Ganger. But he made one notable return in the title rôle of "**COUSIN WILBUR**", as Alfalfa's relative, a bespectacled dandy who turns out to be a business wizard and a prize fighter.

He was in constant demand elsewhere, looking particularly well in patrician garb and settings, for instance as the Dauphin in "**MARIE ANTOINETTE**". He was in innumerable front-line productions, starring Errol Flynn, Greta Garbo, Fredric March, Norma Shearer, Spencer Tracy and the like, usually as offspring or younger-self. Till his late teens, Scotty was doing fine. He had also won fine notices on the Broadway stage in "Slightly Married" in 1943.

But now, in Scotty's teens, the screen parts were beginning to thin out, and his big eyes were losing their confidence and lustre. In 1945 he was seen in "**CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE**" and "**JUNIOR MISS**", in 1946 as young Al Jolson in "**THE JOLSON STORY**", and in 1947 in "**CYNTHIA**" and "**DANGEROUS YEARS**". 1948 gave him, too old, the lead in a remake of the preposterous "**MICHAEL O'HALLORAN**", but not in "**A DATE WITH JUDY**". He had a rewarding lead on radio in the popular series "*The Life of Riley*".

No further information currently available. [Beckett](#) was 16, playing 14, and in that solitary still he looks it. Indeed, it's hard to reconcile that gaunt, nervy-looking youth with the familiar perky-hamster face of just a few short years before. Universal had other seasoned boy actors of the appropriate age, so there was no real necessity to use him. In 1946 he also played the young Jolson in "**THE JOLSON STORY**", but by then he'd made more than 60 feature films, not counting 15 **OUR GANG** shorts, putting him certainly in the top 20 of Hollywood's most prolific boy actors of any period. It seems fair to say he was over the hill now.

His opus included "**GALLANT LADY**" (33), "**BABES IN TOYLAND**" (34), "**ANTHONY ADVERSE**" (36), "**LITTLE BOY BLUE**" (36), "**THE BLUE BIRD**" (40), "**THE BOY FROM STALINGRAD**" (43) and "**THE YOUNGEST PROFESSION**" (43). Very much like Bobby Driscoll a decade later, Beckett's life went to pieces as his boyhood fame evaporated, and though drugs seemed to have played no part in his case, several failed marriages and brushes with the law culminated with him dying in a Hollywood hospital following a savage beating.

See subject index under **KID DETECTIVES**. Many stories featuring "imaginative" boys with a penchant for telling "stretchers" can be found under **EYEWITNESSES TO MURDER / BOY WHO CRIED WOLF**, although the Tom Sawyers, Huckleberry Finns, Penrods and Just Williams of this world have never been averse to a tall tale or two. Find these under [RASCALS & SCALAWAGS](#).