

Little Lord Fauntleroy

US : 1936 : dir. John Cromwell : Selznick / United Artists : 98 min
 prod: David O. Selznick : scr: Richard Schayer, Hugh Walpole & David O. Selznick
 : dir.ph.: Charles Rosher

Freddie Bartholomew; Mickey Rooney; Jackie Searl
 C. Aubrey Smith; Dolores Costello; Jessie Ralph; Guy Kibbee; Henry Stephenson; Eric Alden;
 Una O'Connor; E. E. Clive

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	☺	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Ceddie on the celery – kindly old Mr Hobbs would sometimes let the starving waif sniff his produce, but one can carry a good thing too far...
 Source: *Those Endearing Young Charms*

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001 review:

"Young New Yorker Bartholomew suddenly finds himself a British lord in this charming film from the classic story. Handsome, well-cast production. Filmed before in 1921; remade for TV in 1980. Also shown in computer-coloured version. *** "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review – identical to above, but adding:

"The story and acting are often dated, but high production values help to forget the boring interludes."

Halliwel's Film Guide review:

“A sound remake which did surprisingly well at the box office and is still very watchable. *”



One of these is an ARISTOCRAT. The other is a RAGAMUFFIN. Take your own time. Source: indeterminate

Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion general note:

“The well known children's novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett, about an American boy who becomes a British earl, was filmed in 1922 as a transvestite vehicle for Mary Pickford; direction appears to have been shared between Alfred E Green, Jack Pickford and Alfred Werker. In 1936 it was remade by John Cromwell for Selznick, with Freddie Bartholomew in the title role.”

The Good Film and Video Guide review:

“The most celebrated version of Frances Hodgson Burnett's tale remains that filmed in 1921, probably because Mary Pickford doubled the roles of the little lord and his mother; another was made for television in 1980 with Ricky Schroder and Alec Guinness as the crusty grandfather. Neither works as well as this adaptation, with Freddie Bartholomew as the American boy who is required to live in England as heir to his

curmudgeon of a grandfather, C. Aubrey Smith. Dolores Costello is the mother, Dearest, and no-one else gets much of a look in, but Mickey Rooney, Guy Kibbee and Jessie Ralph play the American friends left behind. ** ”

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89 review:

“Surprisingly uncloying entertainment with Freddie Bartholomew as the long-lost American heir brought under the tutelage of curmudgeonly C. Aubrey Smith, whose hard heart is tamed by the lovable boy. ***1/2 ”

Those Endearing Young Charms still caption:

“Freddie plays the role of a Brooklyn boy who, through the death of his uncle, falls heir to the title of Lord Fauntleroy and crosses the ocean to live with his grandfather, the Earl of Dorincourt.”

The United Artists Story review:

“Mary Pickford played him silently and sweetly in 1921, Ricky Schroder took the role cutely in colour in 1980, but English child actor Freddie Bartholomew was the most memorable of all. As the spoilt child brought up in Brooklyn in the 1880s, who inherits an English title, he was mercifully uncloying. In England, at his family’s stately home, he soon wins over his stern grandfather (C. Aubrey Smith) and almost everyone else. Hugh Walpole’s adaptation of Frances Hodgson Burnett’s snobbish, sugary story, and John Cromwell’s direction, kept it warm and humorous. As Dearest, the boy’s mother, Dolores Costello made a welcome return to the screen while Mickey Rooney as the bootblack, Henry Stephenson, Guy Kibbee, Eric Alden, Jackie Searl; Jessie Ralph, Una O’Connor, May Beatty and E. E. Clive gave support. It was the first independent production by David O. Selznick, who had left M.G.M. to sign a contract with U.A. He was to deliver 12 more pictures, many of them hits as big as this one.”

Variety Movie Guide 1993 review:

“As his first for Selznick International after leaving Metro, David O. Selznick turns in a fine, sensitive picture in **"LITTLE LORD**

FAUNTLEROY", which may well rank with his **"DAVID COPPERFIELD"** and **"A TALE OF TWO CITIES"**. It’s a transmutation of Frances Hodgson Burnett’s mid-Victorian saga.



*Urgent health caution: **UNA O’CONNOR** is lurking somewhere in this film.. You have been warned !*
Source: A Pictorial History of the Talkies

A theme as prissy as **"FAUNTLEROY"**, where the earl-to-be calls his mother "Dearest", might have proved quite hazardous in anything but the most expert hands. As Hugh Walpole adapts it, John Cromwell directs it and a sterling cast troupes it – all under Selznick’s keen aegis – it’s very palatable cinematic fare.

Young Freddie Bartholomew is capital in the title role, and Dolores Costello Barrymore, making her comeback as Dearest, his young widowed mother, are an ideal coupling in the two principal roles.

C. Aubrey Smith as the gruff and grumpy earl, who blindly hates his daughter-in-law just because she’s American, well-nigh steals the picture in a characterisation set-up that’s a match for this vet thespian. Henry Stephenson as the English barrister is on a par in a role that calls for much restraint.”

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

“Far from a syrupy-sweet child movie, this is the affecting tale of a long-lost American heir (Freddie Bartholomew) brought to live with a hard-hearted British lord (C. Aubrey Smith) whose icy manner is warmed by the cheerful child. **** ”

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "That Was Hollywood – the 1930s", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

The fifth of nine known versions to date. Cameraman Charles Rosher had also shot the 1921 silent version with Mary Pickford. Freddie Bartholomew's personality suited this role slightly better than that of "**DAVID COPPERFIELD**". Raised largely by women himself, he had a quietly effete manner about him which made an appropriate toning down of Burnett's foppish angelic creation – a "**LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE**" in knickerbockers.

See also the 1914, 1921 and 1980 versions, Hungary's "**A KIS LORD**" (1918) with Tibor Lubinsky, remade in 1922 with Ferko Szecsi, and three TV adaptations. See subject index under **ARISTOCRACY / ROYALTY, GRANDPARENTS, HEIRS / HEIRESSES** and **HISTORY**.