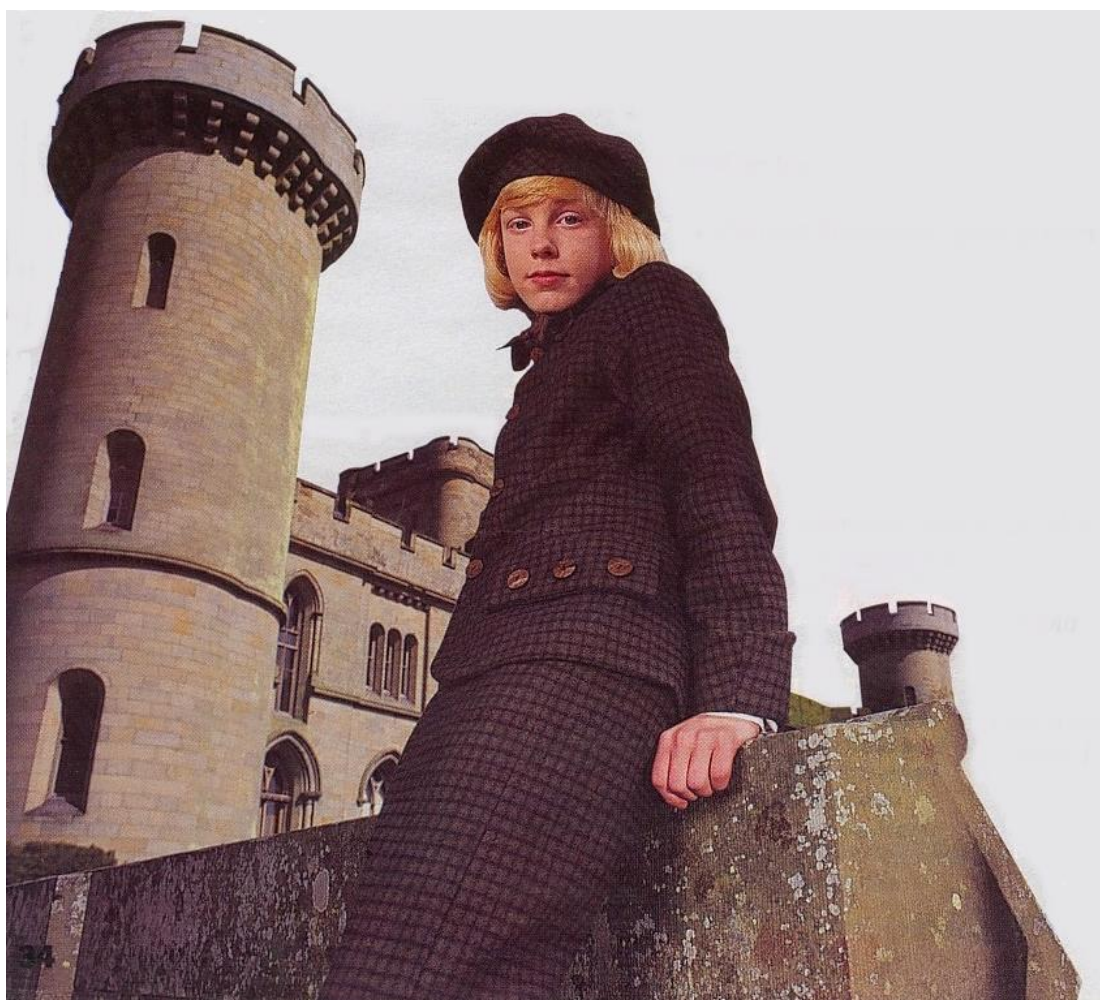


Little Lord Fauntleroy

UK TV serial : 1994 : dir. : BBC : 6 x 30 min
 prod: : scr: Julian Fellowes : dir.ph.:
[Michael Benz](#)
 George Baker; Betsy Brantley; Martin Ball; Stephen Critchlow; Laura Brattan; Virginia Beare;
 Bernadette Shortt; Trilby James; Jacki Webb; Adrian Cairns; Charlotte Ruthven;
 Elizabeth Chambers; Christopher Bowen; Carley Dashey; Reg Quantrell

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The BBC's own children's viewing panel, well stewed in the gender-polarised 90s, could not make up their minds whether Cedric (Michael Benz) is a boy or a girl. The title of the serial they were watching gave them no clue?

Radio Times notes:

“Sumptuous adaptation of the Frances Hodgson Burnett classic.”

“A six-part adaptation of the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

3 : Cedric is touched by a farmer's plight."

Comment from a BBC – seemingly all female – children's "focus group" following a preview:

"Adaptation of the classic novel written by Frances Hodgson Burnett. "Comfortable viewing for all the family", says Sue Cook, although parental help may be needed to explain the plot (and the leading boy's blond wig). The children in Christina Hardyment's group found the story rather sugary, and spent most of their time arguing about whether Fauntleroy was supposed to be a boy or a girl. "I suppose it was educational in history," says Sharon Purewal, "But it was rather boring." "

Viewer's letter to RT:

"Thanks to all concerned in producing BBC1's recent series of "**Little Lord Fauntleroy**", a gentle story perfectly cast, and ending in the triumph of goodness, affection and happiness. How refreshing! I shall miss it on Sunday afternoons."

- Jean Adamson, Burwash, E. Sussex

No further information currently available. First broadcast Dec 94 - Jan 95. The mystery is not so much the sex of Michael Benz, but why the BBC bothered to produce a sentimental costume serial from this particular novel for an addle-brained child audience weened on tabloid soaps and Britpop, an audience so rootedly heterosexist that the central character's long hair was an affront to them. Rather than making a smug joke about it, the BBC might have been alarmed to see how narrow minded their audience had become. Have you observed how often short hair and narrow mindedness seem to go together? Practically everyone was short-haired in the 1990s.

See subject index under **ARISTOCRACY / ROYALTY, GRANDPARENTS** and **SERIALISATIONS**.