

Long Pants

US : 1927 : dir. Frank Capra : First National / Warner Bros Silent : 61 min
 prod: Harry Langdon : scr: Arthur Ripley : dir.ph.: Elgin Lessley
Frankie Darro; George "Bubbles" Noisom
 Harry Langdon; Gladys Brockwell; Al Roscoe; Alma Bennett; Priscilla Bonner

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω □ ☞ Z ♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5396	1½	5	0	-	- - - - -	No	unseen

"A CLASSIC OF THE BASHFUL AGE!"

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide
 2001 review:

"Langdon's follow-up to **"THE STRONG MAN"** is one of the most curious silent comedies ever made: a dark, mostly unfunny story of a boy in knickers who fantasises about being a great lover (based on books he's read), and gets his chance when a sexy femme fatale passes through town. However, this does require that he murder his hometown bride first! For what it's worth, Capra didn't complete the film and didn't like what was done with it. ** "

Halliwell's Film Guide review

"A country bumpkin has trouble in the city. Far from the best Langdon comedy, but funny in flashes. * "

Classics of the Silent Screen entry on Langdon:

"It's sometimes d

The Good Film and Video Guide review:

"The gags in this comedy often look desperate, perhaps demonstrating the director's disenchantment with his star, Harry Langdon. The title is a reference to Langdon's delayed rise to adulthood: when thrust upon him, he rejects his parents' choice of bride and falls hook, line and sinker for a gun moll (Gladys

Brockwell), who uses him in her attempt to escape from jail. * "

Excerpt from **The Great Movie Stars - The Golden Years** entry on Langdon:

"...He had become nationally popular, and other companies sought to steal him from Sennett. He went to WB at \$6,000 a week plus 25 per cent of the net, provided he could make six films in two years, at \$150,000 each... Langdon took with him to WB his usual director, Harry Edwards, and his gag man, Capra. Their first film there [was] **"TRAMP, TRAMP, TRAMP"** (26)... Capra directed the next two, and they were again triumphs, full of good gags and admirably paced: **"THE STRONG MAN"** and **"LONG PANTS"** (27). Langdon then, egotistically, decided that he didn't need either Edwards or Capra, and decided to direct himself. The results were disastrous..."

[no listing in "Hollywood in the Twenties", "A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen", "Silent Movies: A Picture Quiz Book", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film 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", "The Virgin Film Guide" or "The Warner Bros Story"]

No further information currently available. Less of a child-centred film than its title would suggest, then, and since Langdon was the star, his boyhood counterpart in Frankie Darro was no doubt hustled off the screen fairly briskly. "Babyface" Langdon's early success with Sennett hinged on his persona as a small boy in a man's body – a silent screen equivalent to Pee Wee Herman – but like so many of the giants of silent comedy he seems to have succumbed to the cult of his own genius, and proved incapable of adapting to changing audience sensibilities.

Darro and Noisom appeared together again the same year in "**THE FLESH AND THE DEVIL**". Frankie Darro (8) was one of the two or three most prolific boy actors known to the archive, with a filmography longer than the Gettysburg address. Beginning with "**JUDGMENT OF THE STORM**" in 1923, he boasted of having played in "fifty Western pictures and several hundred others" by the age of 12, yet in his entire career probably earned less than Culkin was paid for "**HOME ALONE 2: LOST IN NEW YORK**". George "Bubbles" Noisom (11) on the other hand saw only bit parts in a handful of silents and some modest office-boy type roles in the 1930s. He led a campaign to instigate the death penalty for parents who saddle their sons with cutesy stage names. Or probably would have done, if he'd thought of it.

See subject index under **COMEDY** and **SILENT CINEMA**.