

My Friend the King

UK : 1931 : dir. Michael Powell : : ? min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Eric Pavitt](#)
 Jerry Verno

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The Moving Picture Boy entry on Pavitt:

“Eric was a dark, handsome boy who came from a theatrical family, both his parents and two sisters treading the boards. In **"STRIP, STRIP, HOORAY!"** he was with Freddie Bartholomew (nearly two years his junior) before the latter crossed the Atlantic to become Hollywood’s little Englishman.

Probably his best part came in **"MY FRIEND THE KING"**, one of Michael Powell’s very earliest films, which Powell also scripted. Eric played a sailor-suited boy king, befriended by a taxi driver (Jerry Verno). He also had leads in **"THE BELLS OF ST MARY’S"**, **"STAMBOUL"** and **"CHILDREN OF THE FOG"**, and scenes with Will Hay in **"DANDY DICK"**. More humbly, he was a member of the Buggins family in **"RADIO PARADE"**.

Until the war caught him up, Pavitt continued to appear in films such as **"THE LION HAS WINGS"** (39) and **"GESTAPO"** (40). He didn’t persevere as an actor when it was over, but kept links with show business and ended his career as a location manager for Thames Television.”

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "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. Eric Pavitt was 9, later seen in such titles as **"CAN YOU HEAR ME MOTHER?"** (35) and **"DANGEROUS FINGERS"** (37). Michael Powell’s eclectic directing career later included (surprisingly) the C.F.F. production **"THE BOY WHO TURNED YELLOW"** (72), but more controversially, **"PEEPING TOM"** (60).

This British title would appear to have "inspired" a 1932 American Western with Tom Mix befriending 12-year old monarch Mickey Rooney (if you can cope with such a distressing concept) – **"MY PAL THE KING"**, while a very different cabbie/kid friendship provided the motive for a killing spree in **"TAXI DRIVER"** (76).

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