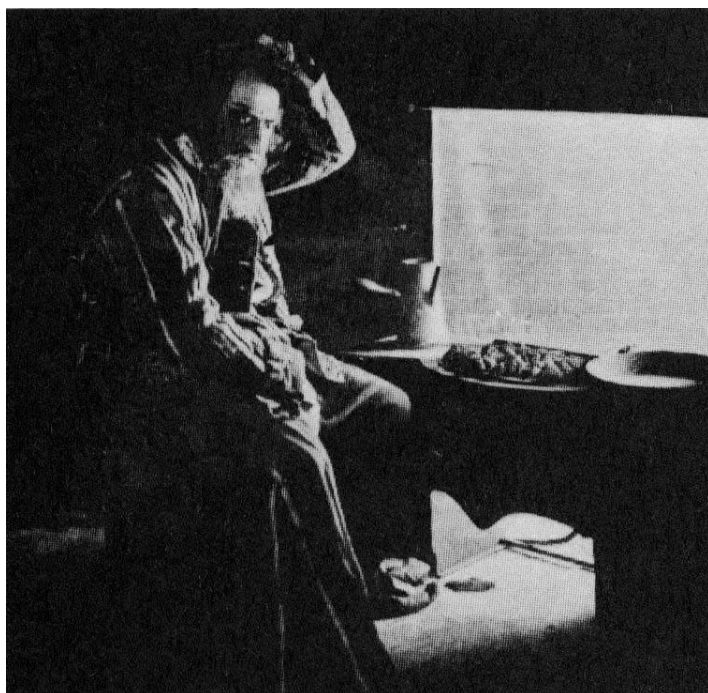


Oliver Twist

US : 1912 : dir. : Silent : ? min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

 Nat C Goodwin; Marie Doro ?

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	¢	M	Ⓜ	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Nat C Goodwin recreates his stage success as Fagin
Source: A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen

Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion general note:

"Dickens' novel was filmed many times in the early silent period: in 1909 by Pathé; in 1910 by Vitagraph; in 1912 by an independent company with Nat C Goodwin as Fagin. A famous American film version of 1916 had Tully Marshall as Fagin and Marie Doro as Oliver; in 1922 the roles were played by Lon Chaney and Jackie Coogan, and in 1933 by Irving Pichel and Dickie Moore. The definitive version to date, however, is the British one directed by David Lean in 1948, with John Howard Davies in the title role. "**OLIVER!**", a 1968 musical version, won six Oscars."

Excerpt from **Speelfilm Encyclopedie** review of the 1916 version:

"...Marie Doro had already made a name in 1912 in the title role of the famous Dickens story; four years later she was an overnight film star with her performance as the little boy Twist..."

A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen note:

"1912: Nat C Goodwin made a film of his stage success "**OLIVER TWIST**"."

[no listing in "Classics of the Silent Screen", "A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen", "Silent Movies: A Picture Quiz Book", "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Radio Times Guide to Films", "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. It's not altogether clear from the *Speelfilm Encyclopedie* note whether Marie Doro played the part on stage in 1912, or in this earlier film version. In any case she reprised the part in 1916 for Famous Players Lasky. Doro was already 30 in 1912, older even than Mary Pickford in many of her "little girl" roles.

At this point in its history, the cinema was still emerging from its nickelodeon, or penny arcade, phase, and full-length features were going into production alongside the more common two-reelers, but established stage actors still viewed the medium with a certain contempt. Adolph Zukor broke through that barrier by casting Sarah Bernhardt in the four-reel French production "**QUEEN ELIZABETH**" (1912), and setting up his Famous Players Film Company to entice major thespians into making film précis of their celebrated roles. Other producers followed suit, and this film would appear to be one of them, although the production company is not certain.

See also the 1909 Pathé and Vitagraph versions, the 1912 British four-reeler from Hepworth, remakes in 1916, 1922, 1933, 1948 and 1982, not to mention "**OLIVER!**" (68), or the various TV serialisations. Two other silent versions of note both featured boy star Tibor Lubinszky in the role – "**TWIST OLIVER**" (Hungary 1919) and "**DIE GEHEIMNISSE VON LONDON**" (Germany/Austria 1920).

See subject index under **CRIME / DELINQUENCY**, **CHARLES DICKENS**, **GRANDPARENTS**, **HISTORY**, **ORPHANS / ADOPTION**, **PRISON / BORSTAL**, **RUNAWAYS / STOWAWAYS**, **SILENT CINEMA**, **SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS**, **STREET KIDS** and **WOMEN AS BOYS / GIRLS AS BOYS**.