

Oliver Twist

US : 1916 : dir. James Young : Paramount / Famous Players Lasky Silent : 69 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

.....
 Marie Doro; Tully Marshall; Raymond Hatton; James Neill; W.S.Van Dyke; Hobart Bosworth;
 Elsie Jane Wilson

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	∞	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
3032a	2.5	3	2	534	-	-	-	-	-	No	<i>unseen</i>



Left to right: Marie Doro (Oliver), Tully Marshall (Fagin) Hobart Bosworth (Sykes), Raymond Hatton (Dodger)
Source for both stills: A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

“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. Not the worst of the many film versions with good roles for Marshall (Fagin) and Hatton (Dodger). *1/2”

Excerpt from Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion general note:

“Dickens' novel was filmed many times in the early silent period... A famous American film version of 1916 had Tully Marshall as Fagin and Marie Doro as Oliver.”



Not quite Dick Whittington, but near enough. Marie Doro's Oliver seems to owe as much to the pantomime foundling as to the Dickens novel.

A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen note:

“1916: Lasky's company was forging ahead as one of the most important in the industry... Blanche Sweet, Fannie Ward and Marie Doro were bright stars on the Lasky lot and miss Doro re-created the title role of her stage success, **"OLIVER TWIST"**...”

[no listing in "Classics 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. Marie Doro, now 34, was more than old enough to have mothered a whole brood of Oliver Twists herself. It's not known whether legal constraints prevented stage producers casting children of the appropriate age in American productions of this period, but the theatrical tradition of women stealing all the major boy roles was continued in the cinema for many years. It's clear in any case that by 1916 there were already numerous seasoned boy players available in Hollywood, but the studios were loathe to hang a major film on their shoulders. Jackie Coogan was the first to break that tradition.

See also the 1909 Pathé and Vitagraph versions, the 1912 British four-reeler from Hepworth, remakes in 1912, 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](#), **STREET KIDS** and [WOMEN AS BOYS / GIRLS AS BOYS](#).