

# Peter Pan

US TV live musical : 1955 : dir. Michael Kidd : NBC : 100 min  
 prod: Jerome Robbins : scr: : dir.ph.:

Mary Martin; Cyril Ritchard; Sondra Lee; Margalo Gilmore

| Ref: | Pages | Sources | Stills | Words | Ω □ € Z ☺ | Copy on VHS | Last Viewed |
|------|-------|---------|--------|-------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 5593 | 1½    | 4       | 1      | 495   | - - - - - | No          | unseen      |



*"Curses! That damnation valkyrie again!" thinks Hook*

*Source: How Sweet it Was*

## Halliwell's Television Companion review:

"The legendary TV production of the J.M. Barrie classic was the one originally presented live in 1955 by NBC, directed by Michael Kidd, with Mary Martin and Cyril Ritchard. Taped the following year, it was repeated many times."

## How Sweet it Was (Television: A Pictorial Commentary) review:

"Most spectacular of all the 1955 spectacles was this gay musical version of Barrie's fantasy. **"Producers' Showcase"** and Jerome Robbins transferred it from the stage to television on March 7 1955, and it has been repeated approximately every two years since, with Mary Martin flying high (on wires) as Peter, and Cyril Ritchard getting his just deserts as Captain Hook. Its appearance is

always eagerly awaited and joyously



welcomed

Peter Pan wore silky lycra tights – shock report reveals – perhaps to aid his aerodynamic properties.

and will continue to be as long as there are children who believe in fairies and adults who relish superior entertainment.”

**Video Movie Guide 1993** review:

“The magic is still there, remarkably, in this 1960 NBC television production of the musical based on the book by James M Barrie. Mary Martin stars in her most beloved role. Unusually high-quality release from Good-Times Video, which has added four minutes of footage not seen in twenty years. \*\*\*\* ”

Excerpt from **Speelfilm Encyclopedie** review of the 1976 UK TV remake:

“...A TV adaptation of the fairy tale had already been made for American TV [sic] in 1955 with Mary Martin winning many awards for her title role and Cyril Richard as Hook. Michael Kidd directed it at the time.”

[no listing in "History of Television", "Television's Greatest Hits" or "25 Years of ITV - 1955-1980"]

No further information currently available. The *Video Movie Guide* gives the date as 1960 and the director as Vincent J. Donehue – a later recording, but with exactly the same cast? This is the second of only three known live action productions (if we discount “**HOOK**”, and by all means let’s do that), and in addition to having no boy in the lead boy part, it has now become a musical to boot. But it would be churlish to criticise a production I’ve not seen, and was clearly such a perennial favourite with audiences. The Lost Boys pictured are unidentified, being of no consequence in a classic children’s story. In 1976 a British television version followed, with (sigh) Mia Farrow as the *gamine* who would not grow up.

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