

Santa Claus and the Children

UK : 1898 : dir. : R. W. Paul Silent : 60 sec
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

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 Cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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The British Film Catalogue 1895-1985 listing:

"Comedy. Santa Claus comes down the chimney and delivers toys to children."

[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", "Bloomsbury Foreign Film Guide", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "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. Released in November of 1898, this must count as the first genuine festive offering by British cinema, if not anywhere in the world. In September of the same year G.A. Smith had made "**SANTA CLAUS**" or "**THE VISIT OF SANTA CLAUS**", where children dream of a similar visitation, but R.W. Paul timed his own production to capitalise on seasonal gooeyness, something film-makers would do with even colder calculation a long century later.

Denis Gifford's *British Film Catalogue* is a staggering work of research, listing virtually every live action film shot in the UK over the first ninety years of the cinema, but uniquely valuable for information on these earliest silent pieces, the great majority of which we must assume to be lost.

See subject index under **CHRISTMAS** and [SILENT CINEMA](#).