

Treasure Island

US : 1934 : dir. Victor Fleming : M.G.M : 105 min
 prod: Hunt Stromberg : scr: John Lee Mahin
 dir.ph.: Ray June, Clyde DeVinna & Harold Rosson
[Jackie Cooper](#)
 Wallace Beery; Lionel Barrymore; Lewis Stone; Otto Kruger; Nigel Bruce; Chic Sale;
 Douglass Dumbrille; William V Mong; Charles McNaughton; Dorothy Peterson

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Kbytes	Ω	□	€	Z	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996 review:

“Stirring adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson pirate yarn of 18th-century England and the journey to an isle of hidden bounty; Beery is a boisterous Long John Silver in a fine film with top production values. The only flaw is a stiff Cooper as Jim Hawkins. Also shown in a computer-coloured version. ***½”

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review - identical to above

Halliwell's Film Guide review:

“An old pirate map leads to a long sea voyage, a mutiny, and buried treasure. Nicely mounted Hollywood version of a classic adventure story, a little slow in development but meticulously produced. Scr: John Lee Mahin, from the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. **”

“While much of it entrances, the whole is somewhat tiring.” - **Variety**

“The first three-quarters is so lively and well established in its mood as to make the whole quite worth going to.” - Otis Ferguson

Movies on TV (1987) review:

“Beery chews the scenery as Long John Silver in this generally enjoyable, visually stodgy M.G.M. version of Robert Louis Stevenson's adventure story. Cooper is Jim Hawkins and

Barrymore has a memorable bit as the black-spotted Billy Bones. ***½”

The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television review:

“Classic Wallace Beery-Jackie Cooper version; Victor Fleming directed. More yo-ho-ho, less bottle of rum than Robert Newton's later, 1950 effort with Byron Haskin. 33”

TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995 review:

“A solid version of Robert Louis Stevenson's tale of high seas adventure, and, of the many movies made from it, a respectable second-best after the classic Robert Newton version. Long John Silver is played by a relatively subdued Wallace Beery, and the whole piece teems with action, atmosphere and period detail. Cultured Douglass Dumbrille is a strange choice to play Israel Hands, though. ***”

Variety Movie Guide 1993 review:

“It's pretty dangerous to put an old classic as popular as this Robert Louis Stevenson yarn on the screen. It is hard to imagine anyone else in the Long John Silver role than Wallace Beery. It is hard to think of anyone who might have replaced Jackie Cooper as Jim Hawkins¹. Yet neither of the two completely convinces. Best performance honours are really split

¹ just about any competent boy actor of the period, one might think

between Lionel Barrymore and Chic Sale. The former, as Billy Bones, and the latter as Ben Gunn, seem most thoroughly to have caught the Stevenson spirit. They overact almost to mugging but it's in keeping with the manner of the story. "**TREASURE ISLAND**" as a story is a grand, blood-curdling adventure yarn. In portions where it is so played it's genuinely thrilling and good entertainment."

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

"This is an M.G.M all-star presentation of Robert Louis Stevenson's children's classic of a young boy's adventures with pirates, buried treasure, and that delightful rogue of fiction Long John Silver. It seems all the great character actors of the 1930s put in an appearance, including Wallace Beery, as Silver, and Lionel Barrymore, as Billy Bones
**** "

The Virgin Film Guide review:

"Robert Louis Stevenson's "**TREASURE ISLAND**" transfers easily from the page to the screen in this first sound version of the classic adventure tale. Wallace Beery plays the famous Long John Silver and Jackie Cooper takes the role of the doughty Jim Hawkins.

The film opens at a rough-and-tumble coastal pub where young Jim meets the drunken Billy Bones (Lionel Barrymore) and learns that the old rummy has a secret map of an island in the Caribbean where a trove was left by a well-known pirate. When Billy Bones dies, Jim and two friends book passage on a ship run by Capt Smollett (Lewis Stone)².

What they don't know, at first, is that practically all of the ship's men are one-time associates of the late pirate and one step from being cut-throats. What's more, all of them want their share of the booty. A beautiful production, a fine score, and a strong script all contribute to making this a respectable version of Stevenson's work. ***½ "

The M.G.M. Story comment:

" "**TREASURE ISLAND**" was one of 1934's biggest hits, produced on the grand scale by

Hunt Stromberg and directed with panache by Victor Fleming. Wallace Beery yo-ho-hoed lustily as Long John Silver with Jackie Cooper as Jim Hawkins, supported by Lionel Barrymore, Otto Kruger, Lewis Stone, Nigel Bruce, Charles "Chic" Sale, Dorothy Peterson and Douglass Dumbrille. All caught the true Stevenson spirit of adventure, as did John Lee Mahin's script and the scenic sweep of no fewer than three top cameramen: Ray June, Clyde DeVinna and Harold Rosson."

[no listing in "Rating the Movies (1990)" or "The Time Out Film Guide"]

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "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"]

² quite inaccurate - Squire Trelawney, no particular friend to a common tavern-boy - charts a ship of his own and hires Smollett to sail her, while Hawkins knows nothing of the map until Bones' death.

No further information currently available

See also "**BADKONAK-E SEFID**" and "**BASHU**" - both recent Iranian films, and subject index under **ARAB WORLD / MIDDLE EAST**.