

Two Naughty Boys Teasing the Cobbler

UK : 1898 : dir. James Williamson

Silent : 68 sec

prod: James Williamson : scr: James Williamson : dir.ph.:

[Alan Williamson; Colin Williamson](#)

Adult cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5225a	1	1	0	443	-	-	-	-	-	No	unseen

The British Film Catalogue 1895-1985 listing:

“Comedy. Boys blow peas at cobbler, who throws a boot and hits a woman.”

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Williamson (1886-1952):

“James Williamson, a pioneer of British cinema, produced and directed films in Brighton between 1897 and 1909 (after which he devoted himself exclusively to the manufacture and merchandising of film and photographic materials and equipment). He soon began to evolve his own grammar of movie-making, and his **"FIRE!"** of 1901, for instance, depends largely on cross-cutting for its tension. In 1902 he sold his chemist's shop and started full-time production at the Wilbury studios.

His sons Alan, Tom, Stuart and Colin became Britain's first juvenile "household faces". In

the **"TWO NAUGHTY BOYS"** films, Alan's co-star was kid brother Colin – and it needs pointing out that the "spoons" in question were not items of cutlery but young people engaged in "spooning" or making love. The titles make exhaustingly clear the pranksomeness of this strand of early cinema.”

[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", "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"]

No further information currently available. It reads exactly like a short cartoon strip, and in essence that's what many of these early film comedies were – simple sight gags with a slapstick payoff. It's amusing that Williamson turned such a simple pretext into the 19th century equivalent of a “franchise”. A long century later, the most lamebrained and derivative of feature films is still capable of generating two or even three “sequels”, which do little but regurgitate the ideas of the first film in slightly different settings. So, no change there then.

Alan Williamson was 12. See also (from the same father-and-son team) **"TWO NAUGHTY BOYS UPSETTING THE SPOONS"**, **"TWO NAUGHTY BOYS SPRINKLING THE SPOONS"**, **"TEASING GRANDPA"** and **"THOSE TROUBLESOME BOYS"**. Spank them! Frequently!

See subject index under [ALL IN THE FAMILY](#), [COMEDY](#), [RASCALS & SCALAWAGS](#) and [SILENT CINEMA](#).

