

The Unseen

US : 1945 : dir. Lewis Allen : Paramount : 81 min
 prod: John Houseman : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Richard Lyon](#)
 Gail Russell; Joel McCrea; Herbert Marshall; Nora Griffith; Phyllis Brooks; Isobel Elsom;
 Norman Lloyd; Mikhail Rasumny; Elizabeth Risdon; Tom Tully; Victoria Horne; Mary Field

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Richard Lyon gets the third degree from new governess Gail Russell

Source: Film Review 1945-46

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide
 2001 review:

"Man who made **"THE UNINVITED"** with Gail Russell tries similar venture but doesn't succeed. Governess Russell haunted again by strange mystery, but film haunted by very weak ending. ** "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review – identical to above

Halliwell's Film Guide review:

"A London governess comes to suspect that dark deeds have taken place in the empty house next door. Period suspenser with good atmosphere but an insubstantial plot. The film seems to have been a hurried attempt to repeat and combine the previous year's success, "GASLIGHT" and "THE UNINVITED".

Film Review 1945-46 review:

"Gail Russell (who found film fame in the creepy "UNINVITED") as governess of two children in a mysterious house. Murder! Shudders and shadows; stronger atmosphere than story."

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89 review:

"Exciting chiller-diller about a young girl who comes to a mysterious home to replace a governess who was murdered. Top drawer for fans of this type of fiction. *** "

TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995 review:

"A follow-up by star Gail Russell and director Lewis Allen to their previous chiller success "THE UNINVITED". The plot, even though you may guess the solution of its mystery early on, remains interesting, as Russell's limpid beauty comes under threat from strange goings-on in a mysterious boarded-up house that's next door to the one owned by her employer (Joel McCrea), a withdrawn figure still under suspicion himself following the death of his wife two years before. John F Seitz's black-and-white cameras skilfully cloak the mystery in shape and shadow and provide some effectively

jumpy moments. Richard Lyon, son of Bebe Daniels and Ben Lyon, does well as McCrea's young son. *** "

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Richard Lyon:

"As a four-year old London orphan, Richard was adopted by the American stars Ben Lyon and Bebe Daniels, who had made their home in Britain. (Ben, famous flier of "HELL'S ANGELS" in 1930, served with the Royal air Force during World War Two, and was later awarded the Order of the British Empire.) As soon as Richard was old enough, the Lyons began to involve him and his sister Barbara in their screen and radio work, and when he was sent to the USA during the war, the fine-boned boy got offers on his own merit.

His biggest role was in "THE TENDER YEARS", but his best-known one was as Irene Dunne's son in "ANNA AND THE KING OF SIAM". He was the homeless boy from the poster who gave moral courage to Dean Stockwell in "THE BOY WITH GREEN HAIR", and the odious patrol-leader of Bob Hope's Boy Foresters in "THE GREAT LOVER".

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Not to be confused with a 1980 horror thriller of the same name. One of the reviews mentions two children, so Richard Lyon presumably has a younger sister, but I don't recognise her name from the cast listed. If variants on Henry James' "Turn of the Screw" amounted to a sub-genre, this would probably belong there. It would depend how far into the background the children of the house recede.

Richard Lyon was 10. He also played with Dean Stockwell in "THE GREEN YEARS" (46), but his earliest known features were "THE HOWARDS OF VIRGINIA" (40) and "SECRET COMMAND" (44).

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