

Up the River

UK : 1896 : dir.

Silent : 40 seconds

prod: R.W. Paul : scr: : dir.ph.:

.....
Cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	ⓧ	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5685	0.5	1	0	331	-	-	-	-	-	No	<i>unseen</i>

The British Film Catalogue 1895-1985 listing:

"Drama. Passenger drops child from steam launch; it is rescued by swimmer from river bank."

[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", "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. This is the very first British-made film known to feature a child (even though a doll was presumably used). It is also one of the first titles to have any dramatic impetus – most of the earlier efforts seem to have been recordings of stage tricks, quick-sketch routines and the like. The exhibition date is given as July 1896, but later in the year producer R.W. Paul also made "**THE TWINS' TEA PARTY**" and "**CHILDREN IN THE NURSERY**". "**A SURREY GARDEN**", by producer/director Birt Acres, was a direct steal from the original Lumiere title "**L'ARROSEUR ARROSE**" (boy plays trick on gardener with hose) made the year before, and the earliest entry in the archive.

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 **BOATS & BOATING** and [SILENT CINEMA](#).