

Tommy Bupp

Titles: 64+ Sources: 1 Stills: 8

Born: Norfolk, Virginia; February 2nd 1925
Died: December 25th 1983
Elder brother of Sonny Bupp [\[qv\]](#)



*Let's just call it a mutual appreciation society – in **"THE HOOSIER SCHOOLMASTER"** Source: Moving Picture Boy*

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"The elder of the two Bupps was sandy-haired and freckled, with a snub nose and a pleasantly acerbic quality: few could have called Tommy "sweet", at least without regretting it. But he was a true enthusiast. Having made his first

movie appearance at 14 months (in something called **"MATING TIME"**), he claimed to have made 75 by the time he was five. Moreover, he had a habit of turning up in the crowds of films he wasn't even engaged for - he would rather be an extra than kicking his heels.

He was characteristically cast as a pest or a sceptical little tough: W.C. Fields's bratty son

in **"IT'S A GIFT"**, or Bobby Breen's wry ally in **"FISHERMAN'S WHARF"**. (Fields

Right: aged 13 – and still packing weapons – in **"HEY HEY USA"**

Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*

Below: age 12 in **"OVER THE WALL"**

Source: indeterminate



obviously sensed a kindred spirit, since he called Tommy, two or three years later, into some of his radio sketches.) He appeared - or at least was credited - in just one **OUR GANG** film: **"HI-NEIGHBOR!"**. And he made some roarin' Westerns.

One of his biggest roles, oddly enough, was opposite Will Hay in the 1938 British comedy **"HEY! HEY! U.S.A!"**. After **"THE WAY OF ALL FLESH"**, in which he and Darryl Hickman played Akim Tamiroff's sons, the admirable Bupp Major had a role in **"NAVAL ACADEMY"** (41), and not much more."

[**no listing** in "Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion" – and with a film career as long as that!]



Two stills from an obscure early John Wayne film – **"THE ABYSMAL BRUTE"** (aka **"CONFLICT"**). Tommy is putatively identified as the one to the left of the blond scrapper in both stills (it's a boxing film) from what must have been a boyhood prologue sequence. Of the three other boys shown, only the stocky redhead can be confidently named as Leonard Kibrick.

Source: original front-of-house stills



Left, aged 14, with ukulele-toting boy crooner Bobby Breen, gazing up at the splendour of stardom in **"FISHERMAN'S WHARF"**
Source: The Moving Picture Boy

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
deb 26	1	MATING TIME	
34	9	BABES IN TOYLAND	
		with <i>Scotty Beckett</i>	
34		CHAINED	
		with <i>Mickey Rooney</i>	
34		A GIRL OF THE LIMBERLOST	
34		HI-NEIGHBOR!	
		With Our Gang	
34		IT'S A GIFT	
		with <i>Baby Leroy</i>	
34		KID MILLIONS	
		with <i>Wally Albright, Matthew "Stymie" Beard, Tommy Bond, Bobby Jordan, Leonard Kibrick, Mickey Rentschler</i>	
34		THE MAN FROM HELL	
35	10	AH, WILDERNESS!	
		with <i>Mickey Rooney, Leonard Kibrick</i>	
35		ARIZONA BADMEN	
35		GINGER	
		with <i>Jackie Searl</i>	
35		THE HOOSIER SCHOOLMASTER	as "Shocky"
35		LIFE RETURNS	
		with <i>George Breakston</i>	
34		LITTLE MEN	
		with <i>Tad Alexander, Ronnie Cosbey, David Durand, George Ernest, Dickie Jones, Dickie Moore, Silas "Buster" Phelps</i>	



Looking more in his element as a boy of
the range in "**CHEROKEE STRIP**"
Source: indeterminate

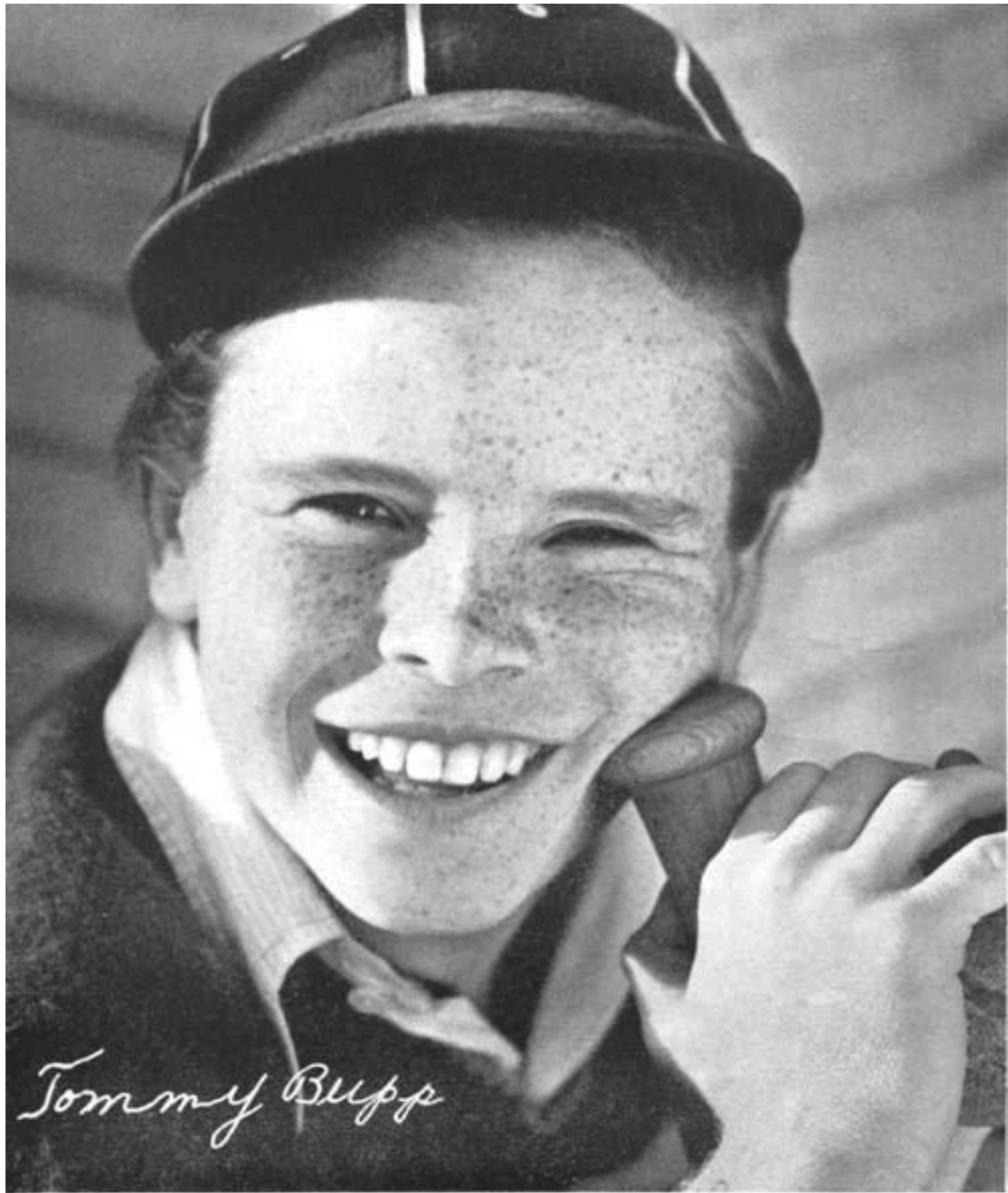
- 35 PADDY O'DAY
with Sherwood Bailey, Harry Watson
- 36 11 CONFLICT / THE ABYSMAL BRUTE
with Leonard Kibrick and others
- 36 IT HAD TO HAPPEN
- 36 THE LONGEST NIGHT
- 36 PEPPER
- 36 PICCADILLY JIM
- 36 ROARIN' GUNS
- 36 SAN FRANCISCO
- 36 SUTTER'S GOLD
with brother Sonny Bupp, Ronnie Cosbey, Dickie Jones, Delmar Watson
- 37 12 CAPTAINS COURAGEOUS
with Freddie Bartholomew, Mickey Rooney, Gene Reynolds, Billy Burrud,
Frankie Thomas, Lee Van Atta, Jay Walter Ward
- 37 THE CHEROKEE STRIP / STRANGE LAWS
- 37 HIGH, WIDE AND HANDSOME
- 37 HITTIN' THE TRAIL
- 37 LOVE IS ON THE AIR
with brother Sonny Bupp, George Billings, Dickie Jones, Jerry Tucker
- 37 MAKE A WISH
with Bobby Breen, Billy Lee
- 37 MAKE WAY FOR TOMORROW
- 37 OVER THE WALL
- 37 ROARIN' LEAD
- 37 TEX RIDES WITH THE BOY SCOUTS
- 37 TOVARICH
with Jerry Tucker, Delmar Watson
- 38 13 BLIND ALIBI
- 38 THE DEVIL'S PARTY
with Scotty Beckett, Dickie Jones, Mickey Rentschler
- 38 HEY! HEY! U.S.A!
with Roddy McDowall
- 38 HUNTED MEN
with brother Sonny Bupp, Sammy McKim, Delmar Watson





38		<u>LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE</u> with <i>Ann Gillis</i>
38		LOVE HONOR AND BEHAVE with <i>Dickie Moore</i>
38		NANCY DREW - DETECTIVE REFORMATORY with <i>Sherwood Bailey, Roger Daniel, Bobby Jordan, Sammy McKim</i>
38		A SLIGHT CASE OF MURDER with <i>Bobby Jordan</i>
38		SWING YOUR LADY with brother <i>Sonny Bupp</i>
39	14	BEWARE SPOOKS! with <i>Dickie Jones</i>
39		CONFESSIONS OF A NAZI SPY with <i>George Billings</i>
39		EMERGENCY SQUAD with brother <i>Sonny Bupp, Darryl Hickman</i>
39		FISHERMAN'S WHARF with <i>Bobby Breen, Leonard Kibrick</i>
39		HERO FOR A DAY with <i>David Holt, Silas "Buster" Phelps</i>
39		INDIANAPOLIS SPEEDWAY
39		JOE AND ETHEL TURP CALL ON THE PRESIDENT with <i>Tommy Baker</i>
39		MR SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON with <i>Dickie Jones, Tommy Baker, Phillip Hurlic, Teddy Infuhr, Bobby Larson, Johnny Russell, Larry Simms, Billy Watson, Delmar Watson, Garry Watson, Harry Watson</i>
39		MYSTERY PLANE
39		NO PLACE TO GO with brother <i>Sonny Bupp</i>
39		OFF THE RECORD
39		ON YOUR TOES with <i>Donald O'Connor</i>
39		OUTSIDE THESE WALLS
39		THEY ASKED FOR IT with <i>George Billings</i>
39		THE UNEXPECTED FATHER
39		WHEN TOMORROW COMES with brother <i>Sonny Bupp, George Billings, Mickey Kuhn, Delmar Watson</i>
40	15	BROTHER RAT AND A BABY
40		SAGA OF DEATH VALLEY
40		THE WAY OF ALL FLESH with <i>Darryl Hickman, James West</i>
41	16	NAVAL ACADEMY with <i>Billy Cook, Douglas Scott</i>

~ ~ ~ and this is nowhere near a comprehensive list, if he claimed to have made 75 features before the age of five! While Holmstrom writes under the assumption most boy actors had a high old time before the cameras, it isn't too many five-year olds who are consulted about their choice of career. Viewed less charitably, Tommy Bupp and others like him were simply worked into the ground by their parents before the age of 16.



Ay caramba!

Source: indeterminate website