

Bobby Connelly

Titles: 92 !

Sources: 2

Stills: 1

Born: Robert Joseph Connelly; Brooklyn NY; April 4th 1909

Died: Lynbrook NY; July 5th 1922 (age 13) of bronchitis

The Child Stars note:

“...Bright stars in their time, Baby Doris and Baby Helen are now largely forgotten, along with most of the other top-rated child performers of the silent era: Essanay’s Mary McAlister..., Bobby Connelly, Vitagraph star for whom the **SONNY JIM** and **BOBBY CONNELLY** series were especially written...”

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

“Robert Joseph Connelly entered films, for Kalem, at the age of three. From July 1913 he (alongside his younger sister Helen) worked for Vitagraph, and he became one of their most valuable stars, especially through his **SONNY JIM** and **BOBBY** series. After 1918 he moved to other studios.

“Moving Picture World” called him “a superior and natural little actor that many would be pleased to grab out of the picture and hug-up”. “To say he is cute,” a later critic wrote, “is not to do the little gentleman justice: he is finished... He has the most remarkably obedient fountain of tears that the screen exhibits. He stirs the emotions of the theatregoer.”

This homely, plumpish, round-eyed child – somewhat like Britain’s Vincent Winter of 40 years later – had a talent for pathos. He could supply his full quota of boyish pranks, though. As **Sonny Jim** he visited the *North Pole*, the *Circus* and the *Mardi Gras*, became a *Little Captive* and a *Cave Dweller*, had a *First Love Affair* and faced the *Bear Facts*.

Soon after his 13th birthday poor Bobby was, indeed, finished – dying of bronchitis and

(perhaps fittingly) an enlarged heart. He had been one of the best-loved of all the early cinema’s children.”

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
12	3	THE COUNTRY KID	
13	4	BUNNY'S MISTAKE	
13		THE CARPENTER	
13		GOODNESS GRACIOUS	
13		LOVE'S SUNSET	
13		STREET SINGERS	
14	5	THE CRUTCH	
14		THE DRUDGE	
14		GOODBYE SUMMER	
14		THE IDLER	
14		THE LITTLE CAPTAIN	
14		THE PORTRAIT	
14-15		- SONNY JIM series -	21x one-reel shorts, in title role
15	6	A CASE OF EUGENICS	
15		EASY MONEY	
15		FOLLOWING THE SCENT	
15		THE HAND OF GOD	
15		HOW CISSY MADE GOOD	
15		THE ISLAND OF REGENERATION	
15		OLD GOOD-FOR-NOTHIN'	
15		THE PATRIOT	
15		THE PRINCE IN DISGUISE	
15		THE PROFESSOR'S ROMANCE	
15		THE THIRD PARTY	
15		THE TIGRESS	
15		TO CHERISH AND PROTECT	
15		THE TURN OF THE ROAD	
15		THE WRITING ON THE WALL	
16	7	BRITTON OF THE SEVENTH	
16		FATHERS OF MEN	
16		FROM OUT OF THE PAST	
16		HER BAD QUARTER OF AN HOUR	
16		THE LAW DECIDES	
16		THE MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN	
16		A PRINCE IN A PAWNSHOP	
16		THE ROOKIE	
16		SALVATION JOAN	
16		THE SUSPECT	
17	8	- BOBBY series -	15x one-reel shorts, in title role
17		THE BOTTOM OF THE WELL	
17		THE DISCOUNTERS OF MONEY	
17		HER RIGHT TO LIVE	
17		INTRIGUE	
17		WOMANHOOD, THE GLORY OF THE NATION	
18	9	GAS LOGIC	
18		OUT OF A CLEAR SKY	
18		THE SEAL OF SILENCE	? x serial
		with <i>Pat Moore</i>	
18		A YOUTHFUL AFFAIR	
19	10	RECLAIMED: THE STRUGGLE FOR A SOUL BETWEEN LOVE AND HATE	
19		THE UNPARDONABLE SIN	
		with <i>Wesley Barry</i>	
19		WHAT LOVE FORGIVES	
20	11	A CHILD FOR SALE	
20		THE FLAPPER	
		with <i>Maury Steuart</i>	
20		HUMORESQUE	
		with <i>Miriam Battista, Milton Berlinger</i>	
20		OTHER MEN'S SHOES	
21	12	THE OLD OAKEN BUCKET	
22	13	A WIDE-OPEN TOWN	
		with <i>Jerry Devine</i>	
22		WILDNESS OF YOUTH	