

John Howard Davies

Titles: 4 Sources: 2 Stills: 33

Born: London; March 9th 1939
Son of screenwriter Jack Davies; nephew of director David Lean



His debut as "OLIVER TWIST" – gaunt and fragile, but with a spirit-of-the-Blitz pluck about him which made him less of a lost puppy than Mark Lester twenty years later. Source: original publicity still

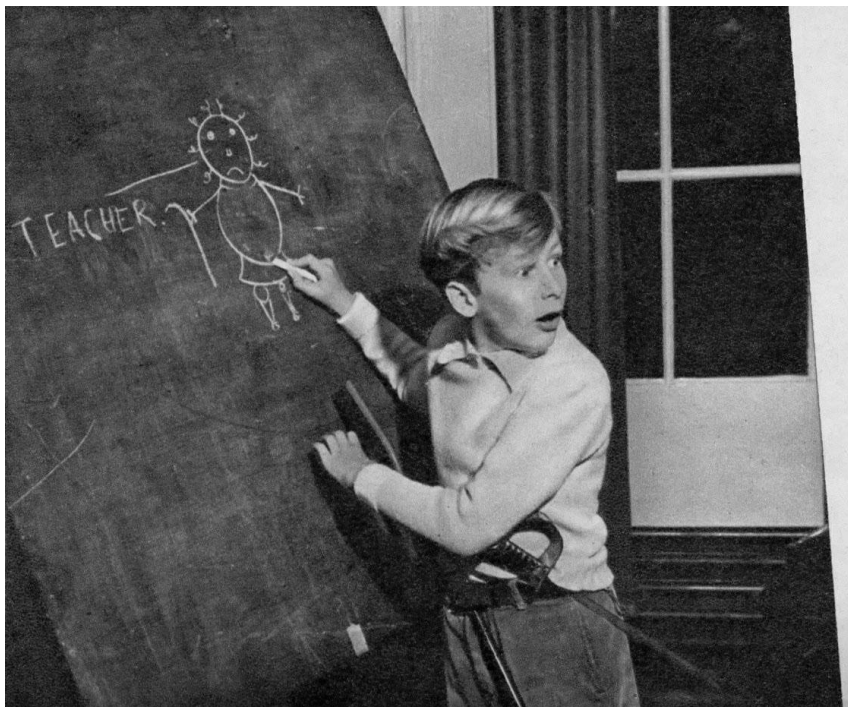
Publicity shots, 1940s style.

Right: posing uncomfortably with a member of the public at the Ideal Homes Exhibition

Source: indeterminate

Bottom: About to receive the tanning all boy actors secretly crave – or – up to his pranks just like a normal kid, depending on which way you care to spin it.

Source: Boys' and Girls' Cinema Clubs Annual



Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion entry:

“British child actor, who became a BBC TV director.”

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

“John’s mother was an actress, and his father the screenwriter Jack Davies; acting went back four generations in the family. He was

suitably delicate, at nine, for the job of playing "**OLIVER TWIST**": not as heart-renderingly pretty as the 1960 "**OLIVER**", Mark Lester, but a better actor.

His range, it's true, was limited to expressions of wide-eyed wonder or fear, plus rather exaggerated enthusiasm and politeness, but this was the manner of the time and not his fault. Drenched and filthy in "**OLIVER TWIST**", he looked the most pitiful (yet distinguished) of drowned rats; and if he was a disappointingly bland Tom Brown, he was at his best in "**THE ROCKING HORSE WINNER**", with the horse-haunted mania bursting satisfyingly through impeccable English charm.

Davies now abandoned acting. After public school and university education, he went into TV production with EMI and the BBC, where he became Head of Light Entertainment. There he produced or directed such classic series as "**Steptoe and Son**", "**Monty Python's Flying Circus**" and "**Fawlty Towers**", and so earned the gratitude of the whole English-speaking world."

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
deb 48	9	OLIVER TWIST 	in title role
49	10	THE ROCKING HORSE WINNER	in central role, Paul Graham
51	12	TOM BROWN'S SCHOOLDAYS 8	in title role
		with <i>John Charlesworth, Glyn Dearman, Neil North</i>	
51		THE MAGIC BOX	
		with <i>John Charlesworth</i>	