

Rex Downing

Titles: 23

Sources: 2

Stills: 0

Born: US; April 21st 1925
Elder brother of Barry Downing [\[qv\]](#)

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

“Looking like a tougher Freddie Bartholomew, Rex Downing is now most often seen as the boy Heathcliff in **"WUTHERING HEIGHTS"**. He doesn't have the looks of Olivier, but he has some of the fire, and makes a fine wildcat in the opening scenes.

He made a few appearances with **"Our Gang"** early in his career, but only in a secondary capacity. His younger brother Barry also acted, sometimes in the same films.

Rex was in a few later films, such as **"BLOOD AND SAND"** (41), **"THE MAYOR OF 44TH STREET"** (42), **"GAS HOUSE KIDS"** (46), **"THE GANGSTER"** (47), **"CALL NORTHSIDE 777"** (47) and **"HE WALKED BY NIGHT"** (48).”

Reader's letter to **Films & Filming** (Jan 88):

“What happened to Rex Downing, a popular boy actor before leaving the industry to enrol in the US Navy in 1942? His family were particularly kind to me during the early war years, but then we lost contact.”

(Mr. G. K., Stevenage, Herts.)

“Born in 1925, he made his film debut in **"THE BLACK BANDIT"** in 1938. His other pre-war films were **"WUTHERING HEIGHTS"**, **"NURSE EDITH CAVELL"** and **"THE ESCAPE"** (1939), **"ADVENTURE IN DIAMONDS"** (1940), **"BLOOD AND SAND"** (1941) and **"THE MAYOR OF 44TH STREET"** (1942). I've discovered that after the war he made an attempt to get back into movies. He was in **"GAS HOUSE KIDS"** (1946), **"THE GANGSTER"** and **"CALL NORTHSIDE 777"** (1947) and finally **"HE WALKED BY NIGHT"** (1948) in which he was at the bottom of the cast list with Bill Mauch, another former child player, as "young men". No one knows his present whereabouts.”

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
35	10	"Our Gang" shorts (3)	
36	11	GENERAL SPANKY	
		with <i>Spanky McFarland, Carl "Alfalfa" Switzer, Jerry Tucker</i>	
36		LOVE ON THE RUN	
		with <i>Bobs Watson</i>	
36		"Our Gang" shorts (4)	
36		SECOND WIFE	
		with <i>George Breakston, Lee Van Atta</i>	
37	12	MICHAEL O'HALLORAN.	
		with <i>Jackie Moran</i>	
37		"Our Gang" shorts (2)	
38	13	THE ARIZONA WILDCAT	
38		THE BLACK BANDIT	
38		BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE	
38		THE MAN ON THE ROCK	
39	14	THE ESCAPE	
		with <i>Scotty Beckett</i>	
39		MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN	
39		NURSE EDITH CAVELL	
39		WUTHERING HEIGHTS	as the boy Heathcliff
		with <i>Douglas Scott</i>	
40	15	ADVENTURE IN DIAMONDS	
41	16	BLOOD AND SAND	Juan as a child
		with <i>Ann Todd, Cora Sue Collins, Cullen Johnson, Larry Harris, Ted Frye, Schuyler Standish</i>	
42	17	THE MAYOR OF 44 TH STREET	
46	21	GAS HOUSE KIDS	