

Leon Janney

Titles: 0 Sources: 0 Stills: 0

Born:

Lanky, freckled child star of the silent period. Nothing further is known about him

Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion entry:

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The Moving Picture Boy entry:

“Leon's great-grandfather invented the Janney railroad coupler. His mother was Bernice Ramon, a not-too-successful actress who saw in her pretty son a chance to get at least her second name in lights: she gave him the professional name of Laon Ramon.

When Leon/Laon was two they left Utah and he began to do cute things in vaudeville. At five, he was a tiny, tuxedoed emcee at a night-club. By eight, he was Bernice's sole support. In vaudeville, around 1926, he used to do a ten-minute monologue act; and between jobs, he sold newspapers: but not many, as he was almost continuously in work.

In 1928 his mother – who coached him tirelessly, and incurred some criticism over dyeing his blond curls dark "for Spanish parts", to go with his romantic name – was persuaded by a numerologist that the name Ramon didn't

really spell the big time, and later that year Laon switched back to plain old Leon Janney.

It worked. After his success in "**COURAGE**", Warners signed him up for three years with a \$400,000 contract. Altogether, including some Fox animal comedies, he notched up more than 50 films. (His one appearance with "**Our Gang**", however, didn't click).

Janney projected hearty good nature and a dazzling smile that sometimes clouded over with the care of premature manhood, as one supposes it must often have done in his own early life. As early as 1931 Leon Janney had worked as a radio announcer (for station STAR, "the voice of Hollywood"), and radio and TV presentation was to become the staple of his adult career and fame. But he still made occasional appearances as a film actor: "**STOLEN PARADISE**" (41), "**THE LAST MILE**" (59). "**CHARLY**" (68). "

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
19		DADDY LONG LEGS	
19		THE UNPARDONABLE SIN with <i>Bobby Connelly</i>	"George Washington Sticker"
20-22		RAGS TO RICHES	(first film for Warner Bros)
20-22		SCHOOL DAYS	
21		BOB HAMPTON OF PLACER	
22		PENROD with <i>Gordon Griffith, Clara Horton, Sunshine Sammy Morrison, Florence Morrison</i>	title role
23		THE COUNTRY KID with <i>"Spec" O'Donnell, Bruce Guerin</i>	
23		THE PRINTER'S DEVIL	
23		HEROES OF THE STREET with <i>Joe Butterworth</i>	
24		GEORGE WASHINGTON, Jr	