

Terry Kilburn

Titles: 12

Sources: 2

Stills: 7

Born: Terence Kilbourne; London; November 25th 1926



Incandescently glamorous – London-boy-in-Hollywood Kilburn *Source: indeterminate website*



Boy everlasting – Kilburn as successive generations of fledgeling under the tireless wing of schoolmaster Robert Donat in "GOODBYE MR CHIPS"
Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*

Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion entry:

"British boy actor of the thirties; never quite made it as an adult."

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"Terence Kilbourne was the son of a London bus-driver, and as a child appeared in seaside concert parties, giving his impersonations of famous movie stars from Charles Laughton to Freddie Bartholomew. (With his huge blue eyes and sad smile he would have made a very good Bing Crosby.)

In spite of his obvious talent, no quick breakthrough into London show business was made, so his parents scraped all their money together and (with the aid of a Los Angeles lawyer they had met in London) took him to Hollywood. Still, for nearly a year, nothing happened. Then, just as hope was fading, he got a nice offer of a spot on Eddie Cantor's radio show, and gave a heart-rending recitation about a boy and his dog. MGM took note, and eventually he was given a part in "**LORD**

JEFF", opposite the very Bartholomew he had not so long ago been mimicking.

Little Kilburn was a tremendous heart-render when he put his mind (and eyes) to it. He did so most energetically as Tiny Tim in "**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**", and as the endlessly reborn new boy in that apotheosis of the maudlin, "**GOODBYE, MR CHIPS**". Less emotionally, he was with Mickey Rooney in one of his **ANDY HARDY** films, and with Rooney again (and Bartholomew) in "**A YANK AT ETON**".

Away from MGM after 1939, Kilburn got plenty of work, but the leads dwindled to supporting roles and then cameos. He was in "**NATIONAL VELVET**" and "**KEYS OF THE KINGDOM**" (44), "**BLACK BEAUTY**" (46), two **BULLDOG DRUMMOND** movies (47), "**THE FORTUNES OF CAPTAIN BLOOD**" (50) and a few other films of the Forties and Fifties. His final screen credit seems to have been in "**LOLITA**" (62).

By this time, though, he had largely turned to the live theatre, as an actor – he played

Marchbanks in Shaw's "*Candida*" opposite



Left: Winsome as the cockney sparrow sidekick "Limey" in **"THEY SHALL HAVE MUSIC"**
Source: The Moving Picture Boy

Bottom: Radiant as Tiny Tim in Hollywood's so-so rendition of **"A CHRISTMAS CAROL"**. Kilburn plays the role like a Heidi on crutches.
Source: indeterminate



Olivia de Havilland, and took over the lead from Eli Wallach in "*The Teahouse of the August Moon*" – then as director, notably of London productions of such American plays as "*Inherit the Wind*", "*Look Homeward, Angel*" and "*The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*". He won considerable critical applause for these, and in the Seventies became artistic director of

a fine professional theatre in Rochester, Michigan."



Crowded desert isle – Kilburn seems the only one properly dressed for the job in “**THE SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON**”. Second from right is a 16-year old Freddie Bartholomew, louting like a Flashman at his Tom Brown.

Source: Pictorial History of the Movies

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
deb	38	11 LORD JEFF / THE BOY FROM BARNARDO'S with Freddie Bartholomew	
38		A CHRISTMAS CAROL	as Tiny Tim
38		SWEETHEARTS	
39	12	THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES	as Billy
39		ANDY HARDY GETS SPRING FEVER with Mickey Rooney	
39		GOODBYE, MR CHIPS	
39		THEY SHALL HAVE MUSIC	as “Limey”
		with Gene Reynolds, Tommy Kelly	
40	13	FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT	
40		SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON with Bobby Quillan, Freddie Bartholomew	
41	14	MERCY ISLAND	
42	15	RANDOM HARVEST	
42		A YANK AT ETON with Mickey Rooney, Freddie Bartholomew	
44	17	NATIONAL VELVET with Elizabeth Taylor, Mickey Rooney	
44		KEYS OF THE KINGDOM with Roddy McDowall, Peggy Ann Garner	
46	19	BLACK BEAUTY	
47	20	BULLDOG DRUMMOND AT BAY	
47		SONG OF SCHEHEREZADE	