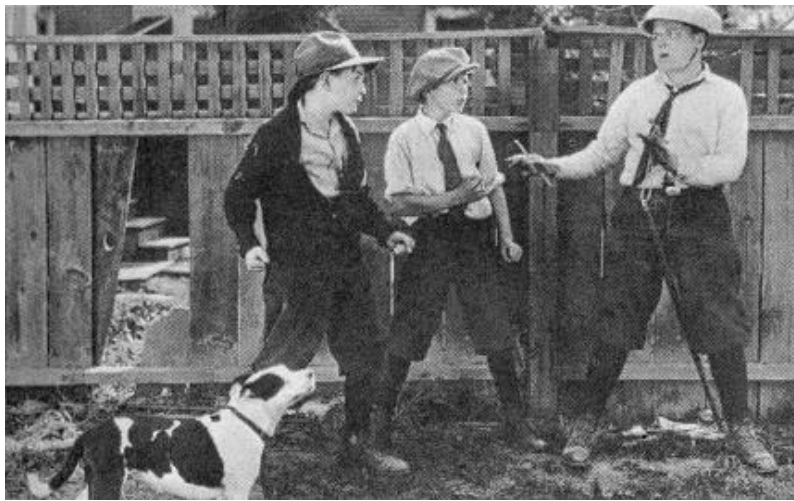


Buddy Messinger

Titles: 29+ Sources: 1 Stills: 1

Born: Melvin Joe Messinger; San Francisco; October 26th 1907
Died: Hollywood; October 25th 1965
Elder brother of Gertie Messinger [qv]



At bay, right, in *"PENROD AND SAM"*, with Ben Alexander (left) and Joe Butterworth
Source: *A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen*

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"Melvin Joe Messinger was a great bruiser of a boy, inclining to fat though not in the Arbuckle or Joe Cobb class. He and his comelier sister Gertie sprang to fame around their ninth year in the Kiddie Comedies which the Franklin Brothers, Chester and Sidney, turned out for Fox between 1915 and 1918. These delightfully robust romances, with the children taking adult parts and the larger girls sometimes donning moustaches and playing dashing gentlemen, had very much the air of end-of-term school entertainments and often used the traditional pantomime stories.

While Gertie – who had a delicious sense of comedy – played heroines or floozies, her big brother was naturally cut out for bullying or villainous roles. (Though when they needed a Giant, for **"JACK AND THE BEANSTALK"**, the Franklins engaged an enormous adult, Jim Tarvers, to make the

children look even tinier by comparison.) Buddy could be superbly malevolent, or just touchingly thick. He would have enjoyed playing Long John Silver in the 1917 **"TREASURE ISLAND"**, but the part went to barnstorming Violet Radcliffe! After the Franklin series ended, he remained in great demand, and was seen as the hulking bane of Johnny Jones in the **Edgar** comedies and of Ben Alexander in **"PENROD AND SAM"**.

His teenage role in **"TRIFLING WITH HONOR"** was a juicy one, and in 1924 he himself became the star of a series of comedy shorts with titles like **"BOYHOOD DAYS"**, **"SUNNY GYM"** and **"BUDDY AT THE BAT"**. Though he gradually ceased to be a household name, he remained a valuable Hollywood heavy and kept his career going for another twenty years. He also toured in Vaudeville as a pianist-comedian."

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
16	8	FIGHTING JOE	
16		GLORIANA	
		with Gordon Griffith	
16		THE STREET URCHIN	
17	9	ALADDIN AND HIS WONDERFUL LAMP	
		with sister Gertrude, Francis Carpenter, Lewis Sargent, Raymond Lee, Lloyd Perl	
17		THE BABES IN THE WOODS	
		with Francis Carpenter	
17		THE BROWNIES	
		with Francis Carpenter	
17		JACK AND THE BEANSTALK	
		with Francis Carpenter, Arthur Lake, Raymond Lee	
17		THE MIKADO	
		with Francis Carpenter	
17		PINAFORE	
		with Francis Carpenter	
17		TREASURE ISLAND	
		with Francis Carpenter, Lloyd Perl, Lewis Sargent	
17		TWO LITTLE IMPS DOING THEIR BIT	
		with Frankie Lee	
18	10	ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES	
		with Lewis Sargent, Georgie Stone, Raymond Lee	
18		FAN FAN	
		with Francis Carpenter, Lewis Sargent	
18		SIX SHOOTER ANDY	
		with Lewis Sargent, Georgie Stone, Raymond Lee	
19	11	THE LUCK OF THE IRISH	
		with Ernest Butterworth	
20	12	EDGAR AND THE TEACHER'S PET	
		with Johnny Jones, Lucille Ricksen	
20		EDGAR CAMPS OUT	
		with Johnny Jones, Lucille Ricksen	
20		EDGAR'S HAMLET	
		with Johnny Jones, Lucille Ricksen	
20		EDGAR'S SUNDAY COURTSHIP	
		with Johnny Jones, Lucille Ricksen	
21	13	THE OLD NEST	
		with Johnny Jones	
21		THE OLD SWIMMIN' HOLE	
22	14	THE FLRT	
		with True Boardman Jr	
22		A FRONT PAGE STORY	
22		SHADOWS	
22		WHEN LOVE COMES	
		with Gordon Griffith, Clara Horton, Sunshine Sammy Morrison, Florence Morrison	
23	15	THE ABYSMAL BRUTE	
23		PENROD AND SAM	
		with Ben Alexander, Joe Butterworth, Bobby Gordon, Newton Hall, Eugene Jackson	
23		TRIFLING WITH HONOR	
23		THE TURMOIL	
24	16	BOYHOOD DAYS	in central role
24		SUNNY GYM	in central role
24		BUDDY AT THE BAT	in title role