

Peter Miles

Titles: 19 Sources: 6 Stills: 16
aka: Gerald Perreau, "Gerard" Perreau

Born: Gerald Richard Perreau-Saussine; Tokyo; April 1st 1938
elder brother of Gigi Perreau [\[qv\]](#) and Janine

Not to be confused with an earlier Peter Miles, whose only known film appearance was in the 1937 "**JUST WILLIAM**" (starring Dicky Lupino, and with Roddy McDowall). The present creature, with the wide-spaced "feminine" eyes and delicate, faintly elfin features was soon eclipsed by his sister's childhood fame and had only one film role of any consequence, as the boy whose faith in the men about him is destroyed by the death of his pony Gabilan, in Steinbeck's "**THE RED PONY**". The two "**CURLEY**" features were a feeble attempt by producer Hal Roach to resurrect the success of his **OUR GANG / LITTLE RASCALS** films, but with a singularly wooden eponymous hero in Larry Olsen.



Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion entry:

"American child actor of the forties, brother of Gigi Perreau."

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"The sensitive, innocent-looking French-bred Gerald Richard Perreau-Saussine had fled France in 1940 with his French father and American mother: after crossing the Atlantic on a tramp steamer, they went to join his mother's parents in Los Angeles. His pretty younger sister Gigi Perreau (Ghislaine, born 1941) entered movies before Gerald, and became a well-known child actor, as to a lesser extent did another sister, Janine.

The boy acted as Gerald Perreau until 1948, when – with the big time looming – he was persuaded to adopt the homelier name of Peter Miles. He and Gigi appeared together in "ENCHANTMENT", "FAMILY HONEY-MOON" and "ROSEANNA McCOY". His own best-remembered lead was in "THE RED PONY", Lewis Milestone's effective version of a John Steinbeck story.

In the 1950s Peter abandoned acting, and rather than going into his father's banking business devoted himself to writing. In both 1966 and 1967 he won the Samuel Goldwyn Creative Writing Award for his novels "Angel Loves Nobody" (originally called "Crooked Children") and "The Moonbathers". In 1969 Robert Altman filmed an earlier novel of his, "THAT COLD DAY IN THE PARK". In a last switch of name, Gerald/Peter now decided to publish as Richard Miles.

Peter Saussine remains in reserve."

Purportedly first person account - by 9-year old Miles - in **Hollywood-London Film Parade 1949**:

"Five hundred to one and the boy made it - you can't beat that for good luck!" Lots of people say something like that when Mr Lewis Milestone, producer-director of Republic's "THE RED PONY" tells how I was chosen for the part of Tom Tiflin in that picture. It's so - Mr Milestone did interview five hundred boys before he chose me. He'd wanted to make "THE RED PONY" for nine years and he said he could certainly take the time to make sure he had exactly the right cast. I suppose I was lucky to be around when he

began to test for Tom, because I was born in Tokyo. And when I was still pretty little we went back to France so my father could fight in the war with the French Army.

Then we came to California. I was in some of Hal Roach's comedies, the ones with mostly 9 children, and in some features. "POSSESSED" was one. I like acting. So do my sisters Gigi, who is six – I'm nine - and Janine. Janine is just four. They played in some pictures, too. Well, if you're the only boy and the oldest, you've got to be the best. So I worked extra hard in my pictures. I tried even harder when I tested for "THE RED PONY" because I thought it would be swell to be in a picture with lots of animals. There are lots of animals beside the pony in the picture - horses, cows, pigs, dogs, even some field mice. There are birds, too - chickens, hawks, buzzards."

Those Endearing Young Charms entry:

"Dark hair and dark eyes. Gerald Perreau, who was known professionally as Peter Miles, was the actor brother of two young Hollywood starlets, Ghislaine and Janine Perreau. Peter's movie career unofficially commenced the day he was noticed by Lola Moore, a child talent agent. At first Peter's parents opposed the idea of his undertaking a screen test, but they relinquished their objections upon the adamant pleadings of Miss Moore.

On the day of the interview Gigi accompanied Peter to the studio and was chosen for a part in "MADAME CURIE". Peter, on the other hand, was not awarded a role, even though his screen test proved successful. However, Gigi's perfect acting performance paved the way for her brother, making it possible for him to debut in "PASSAGE TO MARSEILLE".

After their Cinderella debuts, Peter and Gigi mounted long, illustrious careers in the cinema circles. They joined forces in three motion pictures with their best remembered roles in the film "ENCHANTMENT". For a young lad who began in show-biz without any professional experience, it was truly a crowning success.¹

Peter was educated at the Beverly Hills Catholic Grammar School and enjoyed a pastime of reading and writing. Peter devotes

¹ *Pure waffle. How does anyone "begin in show-biz" with professional experience??*

most of his time these days to writing. His most recent accomplishment has been the publication of the novel on which the Sandy Dennis film **"THAT COLD DAY IN THE PARK"** is based."

What the Critics said:

“ [“**THE RED PONY**”]s] ..Boy-and-pony theme owes much of its compassion and winning graces to a fine and sensitive performance by Peter Miles.”

- **Variety Film Guide**

“ [in **"THE RED PONY"**] .. 9-year old Miles and Mitchum steal the film.”

- **Speelfilm Encyclopedie**

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
deb 43	5	PASSAGE TO MARSEILLE with <i>Billy Roy</i>	
--		-- OUR GANG shorts -- ?	
44	6	DARK WATERS	
44		SAN DIEGO, I LOVE YOU with <i>Charley Bates; Teddy Infuhr; Rudy Wissler</i>	
45	7	THIS LOVE OF OURS with <i>Mickey Kuhn; Leon Tyler</i>	
47	9	CURLEY / THE ADVENTURES OF CURLEY AND HIS GANG with <i>Larry Olsen; Dale Belding; Billy Gray; George Nokes</i>	
47		HEAVEN ONLY KNOWS [aka MONTANA MIKE] as Speck O'Donnell with <i>Michael Chapin; Gary Gray; Jerry Hunter</i>	
47		POSSESSED	
48	10	ENCHANTMENT with sister <i>Gigi Perreau</i>	as Rollo Dane
48		FAMILY HONEYMOON ♀ with sister <i>Gigi Perreau; Jimmy Hunt</i>	
48		WHO KILLED DOC ROBBIN? / CURLEY AND HIS GANG IN THE HAUNTED MANSION † with <i>Larry Olsen; Dale Belding; Billy Gray</i>	
49	11	THE RED PONY with <i>Beau Bridges, Don Kay "Little Brown Jug" Reynolds</i>	in central role, Tom Tiflin, 9
49		ROSEANNA McCOY with sister <i>Gigi Perreau</i>	
49		SONG OF SURRENDER	
50	12	CALIFORNIA PASSAGE	
50		THE GOOD HUMOR MAN with <i>Billy Gray; the "Captain Marvel Kids"</i>	
50		TRIGGER, Jr	
51	13	QUO VADIS	
52	14	AT SWORD'S POINT	
59	21	The Betty Hutton Show with sister <i>Gigi Perreau</i>	US TV show

† billed as "Gerard Perreau"