

John Moulder-Brown

Titles: 28 Sources: 3 Stills: 12

Born: London; 3rd June 1953

A "toy-boy" for all seasons, John's remarkably youthful looks allowed him to continue playing fey, tortured adolescents well into his twenties, often in pan-European melanges. The drawback of that felicity of nature, as others from Mickey Rooney to Ralph Macchio and Matthew Broderick have found, is that perennially fresh-faced actors find it hard later to be taken seriously in more mature roles. Consequently Moulder Brown is still best known for his portrayal of the obsessional 15-year old bath attendant in Skolimowski's **"DEEP END"**. He fared rather better than Mark Lester in *his* late teens though, it must be said.



The subtly elfin features of a demure, squeaky-clean British schoolboy Source unknown



Hard to imagine anything so untidy as lust brewing behind such a face. Moulder Brown age 18 in "ERSTE LIEBE" Source: Moving Picture Boy

Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion entry:

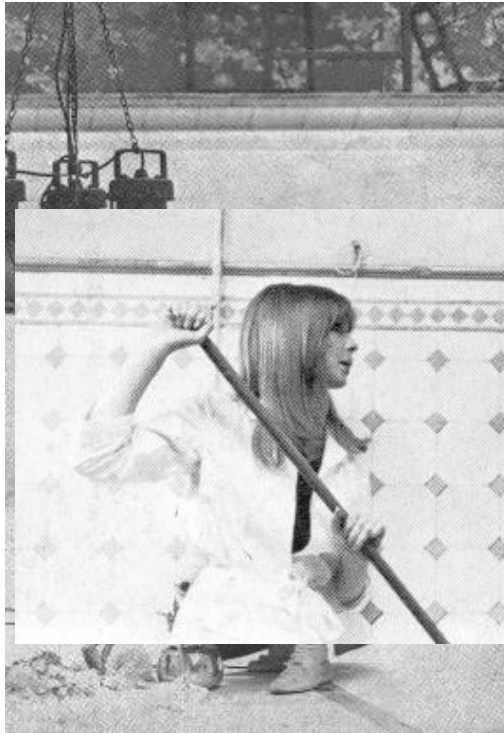
"British actor, usually of intense roles."
"British TV actor, usually seen as a callow youth."

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"In his early years John was the schoolboy equivalent of an English Rose: huge, pale blue eyes blinked demurely through a fringe of fair hair, and he couldn't, you'd think, have said boo to a goose. But he was more than just a pretty face, and when he graduated from modelling to acting, and gained in experience and confidence, a touch of scornful pride crept in which made him less sweet and more complicated. Most often, though, he was cast in sincere, sympathetic roles which didn't call for huge displays of temperament - and got abundant work as a child, including several leads with the Children's Film Foundation. In the 1969 co-production of "**THE BOYS OF PAUL STREET**" - a remake of the classic Molnar story, filmed in 1934 as "**NO GREATER GLORY**" - Moulder-Brown was too mature for the leading role, which was taken this time by Anthony Kemp.

However, instead of faltering and fading like the careers of so many well-favoured children, Moulder-Brown's now blossomed. Jerzy Skolimowski gave him two starring roles: as the young swimming pool attendant in "**DEEP END**" (E Germany/US 70), fatally obsessed with Jane Asher, and as the enterprising nephew of David Niven and Gina Lollobrigida in "**HERZBUBE**" (W Germany/US 72 - "**SEX, LOVE AND MURDER**"), a delightful adaptation of Nabokov's "King, Queen, Knave".

He played another love-sick adolescent in "**ERSTE LIEBE**" (E Germany/Switzerland/Hungary 71), based on a Turgenev story. Robert Young's "**VAMPIRE CIRCUS**" (71) proved less nourishing than the smaller part of Prince Otto, unhappy younger brother of the Wagner-crazy King of Bavaria, in Visconti's



Scene of the climactic accident in **"DEEP END"**
Source: NFT Bulletin

Jane Asher the obscure object of his desire, in **"DEEP END"**

Source: A Pictorial History of the Talkies



Age 14, with Roberta Tovey in **"OPERATION THIRD FORM"**

Source: CFF catalogue & index of films 1972

"LUDWIG" (Italy/France/W Germany 72). He looked suitably sheepish in the appalling **"CONFESSIONS FROM THE DAVID GALAXY AFFAIR"** (78), but had another prestige lead as Thomas Mann's charming twister in the TV film **"BEKENNTNISSE DES HOCHSTAPLERS FELIX KRULL"** (W Germany 81)... John Moulder-Brown had further leading roles in **"THE GRASS IS SINGING"** (Zambia/Sweden 81), **"ELLIS ISLAND"** (84) and **"KILLING HEAT"** (US 84). "

[no listing in "The Virgin Encyclopedia of Film"]



*Left, age 16, in **"THE BOYS OF PAUL STREET"***

Source: indeterminate website



Age 10, second left, in **"GO KART GO!"** (the other boy is unidentified) Source: CFF catalogue & index of films 1972



Age 12, far right, in **"RUNAWAY RAILWAY"** (with Roberta Tovey) Source: CFF catalogue & index of films 1972



...And in his 30s In **"RUMPELSTILTSKIN"** (c1987) Source: John Willis Screen World Film Annual 1988

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
57	4	DEATH OVER MY SHOULDER	
58	5	A CRY FROM THE STREETS <i>with Colin Petersen; Dana Wilson</i>	as Jacky
58		THE MAN INSIDE	as "English child"
58		ROOM AT THE TOP	as "urchin"
--		LET'S GET MARRIED	
59	6	NIGHT TRAIN FOR INVERNESS <i>with Dennis Waterman</i>	as Jimmy
60	7	DOCTOR IN LOVE	
61	8	THE MISSING NOTE <i>with Hennie Scott</i>	CFF
61		TWO LIVING, ONE DEAD	UK/Sweden, as Johnny
--		GALLOP FOR PIANO	as Bobby
62	9	55 DAYS AT PEKING	
62		NIGHT WITHOUT PITY	
62		THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER <i>with Sean Scully; Richard O'Sullivan</i>	
63	10	BECKET	as "acolyte"
63		GO KART GO! <i>with Dennis Waterman; Christopher Witty, Jimmy Capehorn, Frazer Hines, Pauline Challenor, Melanie Garland, Robert Ferguson</i>	CFF, as "Spuggy"
64	11	BEWARE OF THE DOG <i>with Sean Bury</i>	CFF serial, as Michael
64		THE UNCLE <i>with Robert Duncan</i>	as Jamie
65	12	THE HEROES OF TELEMAR <i>with Leonard Brockwell; Peter Pike</i>	
65		RUNAWAY RAILWAY <i>with Roberta Tovey, Kevin Bennett; Leonard Brockwell</i>	as Charlie
--		Chicago in the Roaring Twenties	UK TV
--		Weavers Green	UK TV soap (?), as Robin Westcott
66	13	OPERATION THIRD FORM <i>with Roberta Tovey, Kevin Bennett</i>	CFF
67	14	CALAMITY THE COW	CFF
67		HALF A SIXPENCE	as young Tommy
67		The Dickie Henderson Show	UK TV sitcom, as Arthur
68	15	HEIDI <i>with Jennifer Edwards</i>	US/WG TV as Peter (?)
69	16	THE BOYS OF PAUL STREET <i>with Anthony Kemp; Martin Beaumont; Earl Younger</i>	
69		LA RESIDENCIA / THE BIG HOUSE / THE HOUSE THAT SCREAMED	(Spain)
70	17	DEEP END 8	in central role, 15
71	18	ERSTE LIEBE / FIRST LOVE	WG/Switzerland/Hungary
71		VAMPIRE CIRCUS <i>with Barnaby & Roderick Shaw</i>	as Anton
72	19	HERZBUBE / SEX, LOVE AND MURDER	WG/US
72		LUDWIG	It/Fr/WG, as Prince Otto

(CFF denotes Children's Film Foundation productions)



In **"ERSTE LIEBE"** with (top) Maximilian Schell and (left) Dandy Nichols