

# Kurt Russell

Titles: 5      Sources: 3      Stills: 1

Born:    Springfield, Massachussetts; March 17<sup>th</sup> 1951



Publicity shot for the TV series ***"The Travels of Jamie McPheeters"***

Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*

Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion entry:

"American boy actor of the sixties, usually in Disney films."

QP International Motion Picture Almanac 1994 entry:

"Actor. b. Springfield, MA, March 17 1951. Son of former baseball player turned actor Bing Russell (deputy Sheriff on "Bonanza"). At 12 got lead in "The Travels of Jamie McPheeters" (1963-64). Starred as child in many Disney shows and films. Professional baseball player 1971-73. Host: "Kurt Russell Celebrity Shoot Out", 4-day hunting tournament."

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"The father, Bing Russell, was a baseball pro who became an actor. His baby was bound to be beefy, but Kurt has always offered an interesting combination of the square-jawed and the feline.

A passion for motor-racing reared its head when he was only eight, but four more years passed before his first movie appearance: hacking Elvis Presley's shins in "IT HAPPENED AT THE WORLD'S FAIR". In 1963 he landed the title role, as the son of an itinerant doctor, in a TV Western series called "The Travels of Jamie McPheeters", and more or less simultaneously played Jamie in a film, "GUNS OF DIABLO", drawn from the same book. He also made appearances in other series like "The Fugitive" and "Gilligan's Island".

Soon afterwards he was signed up by the Walt Disney studios, and had his first outing in "FOLLOW ME, BOYS!" as a recalcitrant orphan (named, oddly, Whitey White) who is adopted, and turned into a god-fearing Boy Scout, by Fred McMurray. It was a film that left nearly everyone feeling recalcitrant.

For a further eight years Russell was almost exclusively the clean-limbed Disney teenager, usually directed by Robert Butler or Vincent McEveety, with leads in "THE ONE AND ONLY GENUINE ORIGINAL FAMILY BAND" (68), "THE HORSE IN THE GREY FLANNEL SUIT" (68), "GUNS IN THE HEATHER" (68), "THE COMPUTER WORE TENNIS SHOES" (69), "THE BAREFOOT

EXECUTIVE" (70), "NOW YOU SEE HIM, NOW YOU DON'T" (72), "CHARLEY AND THE ANGEL" (73), "SUPERDAD" (74), "THE DEADLY TOWER" (75) and "THE STRONGEST MAN IN THE WORLD" (75).

Meanwhile, however, on furlough from Disney, he played the younger of James Stewart's ex-convict companions in "FOOLS' PARADE" (71), and, after a lead in the TV series "The Quest" (76), landed his breakthrough role in 1978 as - of all people - Elvis, the very man whose ankles he had assaulted fifteen years earlier. His fair hair dyed dark, he had a sporting stab at impersonating someone he was quite unlike.

Since then, increasingly beefy and often mean, Kurt Russell has starred in two of John Carpenter's films, "ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK" (81) and "THE THING" (82), as well as in "USED CARS" (80), "SILKWOOD" (83), "SWING SHIFT" (84), "THE MEAN SEASON" (85), "OVERBOARD" (87), "TEQUILA SUNRISE" (88), "TANGO AND CASH" (89), "BACKDRAFT" (91) and many more.

He gives good value, and one welcome feature of the break from Disney is that his film titles have got shorter."

## FILMOGRAPHY

| Year   | Age | Title                                                                   | Role                        |
|--------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| deb 63 | 12  | IT HAPPENED AT THE WORLD'S FAIR                                         |                             |
| 63-64  |     | The Travels of Jamie McPheeters                                         | US TV series, in title role |
| 64     | 13  | GUNS OF DIABLO †                                                        | as Jamie McPheeters         |
| 66     | 15  | FOLLOW ME, BOYS!                                                        | As Whitey White             |
| 66     |     | WILLIE AND THE YANK                                                     |                             |
| 68     | 17  | THE ONE AND ONLY GENUINE ORIGINAL FAMILY BAND<br>with <i>Bobby Riha</i> |                             |
| 68     |     | THE HORSE IN THE GREY FLANNEL SUIT                                      |                             |
| 68     |     | GUNS IN THE HEATHER                                                     |                             |
| 69     | 18  | THE COMPUTER WORE TENNIS SHOES                                          |                             |
| 70     | 19  | THE BAREFOOT EXECUTIVE                                                  |                             |
| 71     | 20  | FOOL'S PARADE                                                           |                             |
| 72     | 21  | NOW YOU SEE HIM, NOW YOU DON'T                                          |                             |

[ † not a feature at all, in fact, but episodes from the Jamie McPheeters TV series cobbled together and released in Europe under a different title. ]

[Halliwell credits Russell as appearing in "**THE ABSENT-MINDED PROFESSOR**" (60) for Disney, but he did not ]