

Gustl Stark-Gstettenbauer

Titles: 15 Sources: 1 Stills: 2

Born: Straubing, Bavaria; March 1st 1914



Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

“August Ludwig Gstettenbauer, a cabinet-maker's son, was a jolly, lusty boy with a flair for acrobatics and a gift for imitating animals as well as humans. By the time he was ten he had won local fame as a gymnast, and when he was 13 his trainer, Joe Stark, became his manager and took him to Berlin. Gustl's father died in 1928, and Stark adopted the boy, who added his name to the front of his own for professional purposes.

In Berlin he appeared as an acrobat and entertainer in cabaret, and was spotted by the famous actor Eugen Klöpfer, who cast him as Falstaff's Page in "Henry IV" at the Lessing-Theater. Carl Zuckmeyer wrote a children's play, "Kakadu-Kakada", specially for him, and in 1930, after many Berlin shows, he created the role of the Page-Boy in Erik Charell's "Im Weissen Rössl" ("White Horse Inn"), which he played for 17 months. During its run he had a Hollywood offer, but Charell wouldn't release him.



In *Wolga-Wolga*

Source: *Moving Picture Boy*

Gustl had a real actor's face, precociously [sic] sly and subtle. His first film appearance was in Fritz Lang's "SPIONE", where he had little to do but demonstrate his gymnastic powers with a startling back-flip. Leading parts were to follow in "DER PICCOLO VOM GOLD-ENEN LÖWEN", "DER KAMPF DER TERTIA", "DIE RÄUBERBANDE", "WOLGA-WOLGA" (devoted servant to the rebel Stenka Razin) and - for Lang again - "FRAU IM MOND". This was the last of his 18 silent film appearances, and a memorable one as a stowaway on a moon rocket.

Gustl Gstettenbaur - he eventually dropped the "Stark" - remained a popular juvenile lead throughout the Thirties and beyond, usually playing the role of a healthy, humorous country lad. His 1931 films included "ELISABETH VON ÖSTERREICH", "IM BANNE DER BERGE", "DIE KÖNIGIN EINER NACHT", "KYRITZ-PYRITZ", "SCHUBERTS FRÖHLINGSTRAUM", and "DER STORCH STREICHT"

The following year came "DAS GEHEIMNIS UM JOHANN ORTH", "MÄDCHEN ZUM HEIRATEN" and "STRICH DURCH DIE RECHNUNG". And there were to be nearly 100 more. Among the later ones were "DER LAUFENDE BERG" ('41), "DIE HEIMLICHE BRÄUTE" ('44) and the Franco-Italian co-production "LA VACHE ET LE PRISONNIER" ('60).

After the war Gustl and his wife (the revue artist Gracie Schenk, with whom he often toured in their own show) left the ruins of their house behind in Berlin, and moved back to his old home town, Hindelang in Bavaria. There, in the Allgäu, the pair of them ran the wine restaurant "Bei Gustl".

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
deb 27	13	SPIONE ("Spies")	
27		LUTHER	
28	14	DER KAMPF DER TERTIA ("Battle of the Third Form")	
28		DER PICCOLO VOM GOLDENEN LOWEN ("The Page-Boy at the Golden Lion")	in title role ?
28		DIE RAUBERBANDE ("The Robber Gang")	
28		WOLGA-WOLGA ("Volga, Volga")	
29	15	FRAU IM MOND ("Woman in the Moon")	
29		DIE HERRIN UND IHR KNECHT ("The Lady and her Squire")	
29		KARL VALENTIN, DER SONDERLING ("The Strange Karl Valentin")	
30	16	DELIKATESSEN	
30		DOLLY MACHT KARRIERE ("Dolly Makes a Career")	
30		KOHLHIESELS TOCHTER ("Kohlhiesel's Daughters")	
30		DIE MARQUISE VON POMPADOUR ("The Marchioness of Pompadour")	
30		WIEN, DU STADT DER LIEDER ("Vienna, You City of Song")	
30		DIE ZARTLICHE VERWANDTEN ("Tender Kinfolk")	
31	17	ELISABETH VON OSTERREICH ("Elisabeth of Austria")	
31		IM BANNE DER BERGE ("In Thrall to the Mountains")	
31		DIE KONIGIN EINER NACHT ("One Night for the Queen")	
31		KYRITZ-PYRITZ (" ? ? ? ")	
31		SCHUBERTS FRUHLINGSTRAUME ("Schubert's Dream")	
31		DER STORCH STREIKT ("The Stork Strikes" ?)	
32	18	DAS GEHEIMNIS UM JOHANN ORTH ("The Secret of Johann Orth")	
32		MADCHEN ZUM HEIRATEN ("Lasses to Marry")	
32		STRICHT DURCH DIE RECHNUNG ("A Strike Through the Account")	with <i>Rolf Wenkhaus</i>