

Dean Stockwell

Titles: 19 Sources: 13 Stills: 150+

Born: Hollywood, California; March 5th 1936
Son of M-G-M actor Harry Stockwell, younger brother of actor Guy Stockwell
Educated at Long Island public schools; Martin Milmore, Boston; Loyola High School, Hollywood; Hamilton High School, LA and University of California, Berkeley.





Above (and front page) in **"THE BOY WITH GREEN HAIR"**

Source: indeterminate website

With that retroussée nose, the full pouting lips, eyelashes women would kill for - Dean Stockwell was Hollywood's sulky cherub deluxe. M-G-M marked him down for a "man's boy", however (in contrast, say, to Freddie Bartholomew), pairing him off with Gene Kelly, Dana Andrews, Richard Widmark, Errol Flynn. He was teamed with Wallace Beery in a feeble attempt to repeat Beery's sentimental hit of **"THE CHAMP"**, and later made a Western rehash of **"CAPTAINS COURAGEOUS"** with Joel McCrea (**"CATTLE DRIVE"**). In all these films women were conspicuous by their absence, and the driving emotional impetus of the story was the boy Stockwell's developing bond with the hero. They were, in point of fact, robust masculine romances – the same deep feelings, with none of the mushy stuff.

Looking far less comfortable in a "message movie" (**"THE BOY WITH GREEN HAIR"**) than a colourful *Boys' Own* epic (**"KIM"**), Stockwell as an actor was highly photogenic but lightweight, his range sorely limited, a matinee idol in waiting. Only as the cherubic looks faded did he begin to reveal genuine dramatic talent, but what is curious about him is that he did *not* segue from smouldering boy star to handsome leading man, and all his adult work has been (like Roddy McDowall's) in the category of quirky character parts. His campy supporting role in the TV series **"Quantum Leap"** was only too redolent of the adult Roddy McDowall.

From the biographical information below, it would seem fair to conclude he feels more at ease on the New York stage than on screen. Reading even further between the lines, it seems at least possible that Stockwell is discreetly gay, although I've no confirmation of this. If that were the case, it would be very interesting to know at what point in his career this became apparent to him.

Right: Age 10, smouldering looks and a hint of defiance in the eye.
Source: Moving Picture Boy

Below: Dreaming of a life on the ocean wave with jolly tar Frank Sinatra in **"ANCHORS AWEIGH"**
Source: Classic Movie Kids website



Property of National Screen Service Corp. Licensed for display only in connection with the exhibition of this picture at your theatre. Must be returned immediately thereafter.

"ANCHORS AWEIGH"
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

Copyright 1935, Loew's Inc. Permission granted for newspaper and magazine reproduction. Made in U. S. A.

R55/120

Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion entry:

"American boy actor of the forties, later a leading man."

Motion Picture Almanac 1994 entry:

"Actor. Born Hollywood, California, March 5 1935 ¹; parents Harry and Betty Veronica Stockwell. Brother is actor Guy Stockwell. Educated Long Island public schools and Martin Milmore, Boston. On stage in Theatre Guild production "Innocent Voyage". Appeared on radio in "Death Valley Days" and "Dr Christian". Named in 1949 M.P. Herald-Fame Stars of Tomorrow poll; 1976 retired to Santa Monica as a licensed real estate broker but soon returned to acting."

Picturegoer Film Annual 1949 forecast:

"Dean Stockwell is a child actor so self-effacing and thoughtful that he may never achieve stardom. He has a sense of character rare in a youngster and a good deal of quiet charm."

[Still caption from the same book: "You can't forget Dean Stockwell - not after seeing **"THE YEARLING"** " - well no, but you *can* get him hopelessly confused apparently]

The M-G-M Story incidental note on his father:

"1935: Harry Stockwell, Virginia Bruce's new leading man in **"HERE COMES THE BAND"**, was a pleasant fellow with a good voice. But he made his most notable contribution to the screen at home while this movie was in production. Early in the following year his son was born: Dean Stockwell, destined to be an M-G-M child prodigy and a fine adult actor..."

Source unknown:

"Boy actor who played Broadway when nine."

The Film Show Annual filmography:

"Dean Stockwell was born in North Hollywood, California on March 5, 1936, to Harry Stockwell, New York actor, and his wife, Betty

Veronica Stockwell, who retired from the stage when she married. Dean broke into the acting profession at the age of six, largely by accident. Dean's brother, Guy, a year older than Dean, had been doing some stage work in New York and, having no-one with whom to leave Dean, the boys' mother took Dean along on an interview appointment for Guy. Guy won the part in "Innocent Voyage", a Theatre Guild production starring Herbert Berghoff and Oscar Homolka, and the director also chose Dean for a small role.

Following this play, Dean was cast in "High Wind in Jamaica", also a Theatre Guild production, and M.G.M made a screen test of him. Nothing happened to the test until one day it showed up in a group of tests that Joseph Pasternak was screening. At that time Pasternak was planning **"ANCHORS AWEIGH"** and he looked up Dean on his next trip to New York and signed him to an M.G.M contract. Young Dean was an instant hit in **"ANCHORS AWEIGH"**, playing the young brother of Kathryn Grayson, who wanted to join the navy to be with Frank Sinatra and Gene Kelly.

After that he played Gregory Peck's son in **"VALLEY OF DECISION"** and the younger Tom Drake in **"THE GREEN YEARS"**. Then followed a series of films including **"GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT"**, which won the Academy Award in 1947; **"DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS"**, **"THE BOY WITH THE GREEN HAIR"**, in which Dean played the title role. All in all, Dean had been starred and featured in 22 films, when at the age of 15, he met the fate of all child stars by outgrowing his roles.

Although born in Southern California, Dean lived in New York until he was eight and had his first schooling in the public schools on Long Island. After coming to Hollywood he received the rest of his primary education in studio schools and then enrolled at Loyola High School, transferring later to the Hamilton High School, Los Angeles, where he graduated at the age of 16. He then attended the University of California, Berkeley, for a year, but gave it up to begin performing in television. He has appeared in all the top TV dramatic shows.

Stockwell appeared briefly in a New York production, "Front Row, Centre", and then was chosen to portray Judd Steiner, a starring role, in the Broadway presentation of the Meyer

¹ *only a whole year out*

Levin novel, "Compulsion". The play opened October 25, 1957, and ran 170 performances. The book and the play had been bought for

films by Darryl F Zanuck productions and 20th Century Fox release. Producer Richard Zanuck selected Dean for the film version, the



Top left: Letting off steam in the gym during his busy shooting schedule. Top right: Publicity shot for "THE HAPPY YEARS" (aka "The Adventures of Young Dink Stover").

Source for all stills except the bottom left (unidentified): Classic Movie Kids website

only member of the Broadway cast so honoured. His next role will be in **"SONS AND LOVERS"**.

Slender, intense and inclined to solitude, Stockwell's interests are music, literature and, above all, the theatre. He bears down on a role with undivided concentration, seeking to wring every ounce of value from it. He is five feet, 10 inches tall; weight 145 pounds; has dark brown hair and dark eyes. His features are clear over good bone structure and he bears a resemblance to the late James Dean."

Those Endearing Young Charms entry:

"Born: March 5, 1936. Place of birth: North Hollywood, California. Curly brown hair and dark brown eyes. Dean was born into a show-biz family. His mother, Betty Veronica Stockwell, was a one-time dancer on Broadway; his father, Harry Stockwell, played the leading role in "Oklahoma" on Broadway; while his brother Guy is at present a stage and screen star.

The big break for Dean came at the age of seven when he and Guy won top roles in the Theatre Guild's production of "The Innocent Voyage". The raves of the New York theatre critics caught the attention of many film scouts. In a heavy struggle for his contract, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer emerged victorious. He was cast immediately in **"ANCHORS AWEIGH"**, where he made an auspicious debut opposite Frank Sinatra.

In between his picture assignments, Dean took elocution lessons in an attempt to polish up on his diction. After awhile these lessons proved instrumental in his finding roles on such radio programmes as "Death Valley Days" and "Dr Christian". Like most movie actors, Dean attended school on the studio lots. While he was acting on the stage, however, he attended school in Long Island, New York. In his spare time, Dean enjoyed a game of football or baseball and occasionally went fishing. His hobbies were collecting stamps and coins.

Dean was named the "Star of Tomorrow" in the 1949 Motion Picture Herald-Fame Poll. He won the Gold Star award for Best Juvenile Performance of 1947 in **"GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT"**, the Parents Magazine Juvenile Acting Award as Most Talented Juvenile Star

for 1948, and the Critics' Award for one of the top five performances by a juvenile actor in **"GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT"** and **"THE GREEN YEARS"**.

Dean is now a leading man in the Hollywood circles, acting in such pictures as **"COMPULSION"** and **"SONS AND LOVERS"**. He has done some television work, including a six-segment series for **"Dr Kildare"** in 1965. In 1960 he married actress Millie Perkins, who starred in **"THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK"**, and four years later he divorced her."

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"His father, Harry Stockwell, was an actor, and his mother a dancer. When Dean was seven he and his younger brother Guy played leading parts in a Theater Guild production of "The Innocent Voyage". The critics raved, Hollywood swooped, and MGM signed him up. He had a whale of a time with Gene Kelly and Frank Sinatra in **"ANCHORS AWEIGH"**. Stockwell, a plump, pouting, curly-headed cherub with knowing brown eyes, often seemed something of a prima donna in his early years, yet he could express spontaneous gaiety or genuine pain, and was deservedly the most sought-after boy actor of the Forties. Sometimes, as with Freddie Bartholomew, his arrogance was exploited in a "humbling" drama, for instance in **"THE SECRET GARDEN"** and **"THE HAPPY YEARS"** - the latter showing him at his best.

After an educational pause in his career, a leaner and nervier Dean Stockwell returned in **"GUN FOR A COWARD"** (56) and **"THE CARELESS YEARS"** (57). (He must have been sick of Years by now.) Then came three important "classic" parts: as the young nietzschean co-murderer in **"COMPULSION"** (59), as the D.H. Lawrence figure in **"SONS AND LOVERS"** (GB 60) and as the Eugene O'Neill figure (the consumptive younger son) in **"A LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT"** (62). He was an intelligent and personable young actor doing a good professional job. Predictions of his becoming a major star proved ill-founded, and during the sixties he was seldom on the screen.

The next decade began better, with leads in "THE DUNWICH HORROR" (70) and "THE WEREWOLF OF WASHINGTON" (73), and in two 1971 TV movies: "PAPER MAN" and "THE FAILING OF RAYMOND". Films now came thick and fast as Stockwell's hair thinned and a wary, hard-bitten middle-aged actor

emerged - more interesting, actually, than the younger one. He has lent strength to such varied films as "HUMAN HIGHWAY" (82), "THE MAN WITH THE DEADLY LENS" (82), "ALSINO Y EL CONDOR" (Nicaragua/



Property of National Screen Service Corp. Licensed for display only in connection with the exhibition of this picture at your theatre. Must be returned immediately thereafter.

"THE GREEN YEARS," An M-G-M Picture

Copyright 1946, Loew's Inc. Permission granted for Newspaper and Magazine reproduction. Made in U. S. A. 96/062



Top: **"THE GREEN YEARS"**; bottom: **"THE MIGHTY MCGURK"**

Source: *Classic Movie Kids website*

Mexico/Columbia/Costa Rica 82), **"PARIS, TEXAS"** (84), **"BLUE VELVET"** (86) and **"CATCHFIRE"** (89). His portrayal of Howard Hughes in **"TUCKER"** is a small tour de force."

Purportedly "by his own hand" report in **Hollywood-London Film Parade 1949**:

"In our family we're pretty interested in show business. My father had the lead in **"Okla-homa"** when it opened in New York. My mother, Betty Veronica Stockwell, is an actress and a dancer. And I was born in North Hollywood, which is in San Fernando Valley where there are lots of studios and is close to Hollywood besides. So you would think it would have been very easy for me to get in pictures. Only it wasn't.

After a while we went to New York and my brother Guy - he's the oldest - and I were in two plays on the stage. One was **"Innocent Voyage"** and the other was **"Chicken Every Sunday"**. That was when Mr Pasternak from M-G-M saw me act and had me test for a part in **"ANCHORS AWEIGH"** with Miss Kathryn Grayson. I won the part and I won a long term contract with M-G-M too. So I went back to Hollywood.

I made **"THE VALLEY OF DECISION"**, **"THE GREEN YEARS"** and lots of other pictures. Then in **"GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT"** I was supposed to be Gregory Peck's son and the Hollywood Foreign Correspondents' Association gave me a prize, their Golden Globe award for the "Outstanding Juvenile Performance of the year".

After that R.K.O had me do **"THE BOY WITH GREEN HAIR"**. I really have green hair in the picture, too. It sure looked peculiar for a while, but I got used to it after a few days in front of the Technicolor cameras. Then I went into **"THE SECRET GARDEN"** at M-G-M. Margaret O'Brien and Brian Roper are in it too. Brian was brought to Hollywood all the way from England to play the part of Dickon. They are both wonderful in it so, you can see, I had to remember to keep up the family tradition."

What the critics said:

In "THE BOY WITH GREEN HAIR" -

"Dean Stockwell does well as the orphan whose hair changes colour..."

- Radio Times Guide to Films

"...worth seeing for Dean Stockwell's kid."

- The Sunday Times Guide to
Movies on Television

In "KIM" -

"...A delightful performance by a then winsome, 12-year old Dean Stockwell.."

- Radio Times

"...Stars Errol Flynn.. and Paul Lukas actually got to film some of the scenes in India, but young Dean Stockwell in the title role - many years later a star of the TV series "Quantum Leap" - never left California!.."

- TV Times Film & Video Guide

"...Dean Stockwell is one of the finest and most believable of child stars.."

- Video Movie Guide 1993

"...The story does have its appealing moments, particularly when young Dean Stockwell is on screen - a young orphan who plays at being a native and encounters derring-do adventures *[sic]* while aiding British intelligence ferret out a dastardly Czarist Russian plot to seize India." -

The Variety Film Guide 1993

In "CATTLE DRIVE" -

"Stockwell does well in role of bratty teen-ager who learns a sense of values from veteran cowhand McCrea on arduous cow drive."

- Leonard Maltin

"Interesting Western with good performances by McCrea and Stockwell as a saddle worn cowhand and a young upstart, respectively.."

- Movies on TV and Videocassette



FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
deb 49	9	ANCHORS AWEIGH with Orley Lindgren, Merrill Rodin	as Donald Martin
45		THE VALLEY OF DECISION with B G Norman	
45		ABBOT AND COSTELLO IN HOLLYWOOD with Jackie "Butch" Jenkins	
46	10	THE GREEN YEARS with Richard Lyon, Charley Bates	as Tom Drake
46		HOME SWEET HOMICIDE	
47	11	THE MIGHTY McGURK ⚡	
47		THE ARNELO AFFAIR	
47		SONG OF THE THIN MAN	
47		A REALLY IMPORTANT PERSON	
47		THE ROMANCE OF ROSY RIDGE	
48	12	GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT †	
48		THE BOY WITH GREEN HAIR with Richard Lyon, Johnny Calkins, Dwayne Hickman, Teddy Infuhr, Bill Sheffield, Rusty Tamblyn	in title role, Peter
48		DEEP WATERS	
49	13	DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS with Jimmy Hawkins	as Jed Joy, sailor's boy
49		THE SECRET GARDEN with Margaret O'Brien, Brian Roper	
50	14	STARS IN MY CROWN with Jimmy Moss	
50		THE HAPPY YEARS with Scotty Beckett, Donn Gift, Daryl Hickman, Jerry Mickelsen, Danny Mummert	
50		KIM	in title role, Kimberley O'Hara
51	15	CATTLE DRIVE	in central role, Chester Graham
57	21	GUN FOR A COWARD	
57		THE CARELESS YEARS	

† won him the Golden Globe award for "Outstanding Juvenile Performance of the Year"



"Property of National Screen Service Corp.
Licensed for display only in connection with
the exhibition of this picture at your theatre.
Must be returned immediately thereafter."

THE BOY WITH THE GREEN HAIR
An RKO Radio Picture

"Copyright 1948, RKO Radio Pictures Inc." 48/1154
Permission is hereby granted to newspapers,
magazines and other periodicals to reproduce
this photograph. (Country of Origin U.S.A.)



*Definitely a man's boy - Top: with Robert Ryan in "THE BOY WITH GREEN HAIR"
Bottom: with Dana Andrews in "DEEP WATERS"*



Byronic - age 13 in "DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS"

Source: Classic Movie Kids website



Licensed for
of this picture
ly thereafter.

"STARS IN MY CROWN"
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture

Copyright 1950, Loew's Inc. Permission
granted for Newspaper and Maga-
zine reproduction. Made in U. S. A

These stills constitute only a small sample of the 150+ stills of Dean held in the archive images section. Those who can't have too much of a good thing should refer to that section with their image browser, or click on the hyperlinked film titles for more stills from the film in question.