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The Adventures of Long John Silver

Australia TV series : 1955-56 : dir. : Isola del'Oro : 26 x 25 min
prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Kit Taylor](#)
Robert Newton; Connie Gilchrist

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	□	€	Z	⊗	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
2025a	2	3	2	546	3	-	-	3	-	No	uncertain



Be that ham I smells a-roasting? – chortles Long John
Source: The Golden Age of Children's Television

Halliwell's Television Companion review:

"Cramped, studio-bound adventures of a rascally pirate, notable chiefly for preserving a famous star performance. * "

The Golden Age of Children's Television note:

"Down Under, Robert Newton went completely over the top in "The Adventures of Long John Silver"."

[no listing in "History of Television", "How Sweet It Was", "Into the Box of Delights - a History of Children's Television", "Television's Greatest Hits" or "25 Years of ITV - 1955-1980"]

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Taylor:

"He was the son of the actor Grant Taylor. When Robert Newton, four years after his eye-rolling triumph as Long John Silver in the 1955 **"TREASURE ISLAND"**, was persuaded to revive the role in an Australian CinemaScope sequel, fair-haired Kit was cast as Jim Hawkins.

Newton and Taylor went on to star in a **"Long John Silver"** series on Australian TV (1955-56). **"UNDER THE BLACK FLAG"** and **"SOUTH SEA PIRATES"** were cobbled together from episodes in this series, so Kit was in fact only 13-14 at the time of filming.

Kit Taylor went to work abroad, appearing for instance in **"ASSAULT"** (GB 70). But in 1974 he returned to Australia, and has since then acted in numerous cinema and TV movies: **"HARNESS FEVER"** (75), **"DON'S PARTY"** (76), **"WEEKEND OF SHADOWS"** (77), **"NEWSFRONT"** (78), etcetera. Two of these – **"BORN TO RUN"** and **"HARNESS FEVER"** – featured the boy actor Robert Bettles."



*Antipodean antics on the Spanish Main – steely eyed Kit Taylor is ready for anything, even Robert Newton.
Source: The Moving Picture Boy*

No further information currently available. Reportedly one of the most expensive outdoor sets in Australia's history was built for the 1953 film **"LONG JOHN SILVER"**, from which it's a fair guess this series was intended at the outset, and the feature version was a lavish TV pilot in all but name. Not only did this necessitate a certain watering down of the Silver character and his propensity for treachery, it reduced Jim Hawkins to the status of a boy sidekick, a mere ship's boy in Silver's entourage. Kit Taylor, 13, is presumably also related to Rod Taylor, who played Israel Hands in the film, and then bolted for Hollywood. Kit made five further films but, as Holmstrom says, at least two off these were repackaged episodes from the series, and **"SHIP O' THE DEAD"** (56) smells equally fishy. The others were **"THE CRISIS"** (56) and **"TALE OF A TOOTH"** (56). See by contrast Robert Newton's performance as the saintly Dr Arnold in **"TOM BROWN'S SCHOOLDAYS"**. He was also under greater restraint as Bill Sykes in David Lean's **"OLIVER TWIST"** (48).

See **"LONG JOHN SILVER"**, **"UNDER THE BLACK FLAG"**, **"SOUTH SEA PIRATES"**, **TREASURE ISLAND – GENERAL NOTE** for a list of all other known adaptations, and subject index under **AUSTRALASIA**, **BOY SIDEKICKS**, **HISTORY**, **SEAFARING / PIRACY**, **SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS**, **TREASURE HUNTS** and **TV SERIES**.