

K graphic

The Adventures of Peter Joe

(aka: "The Voyage of Peter Joe")
UK series : 1946/47 : dir. : Children's Entertainment Films : 6 x ? min
prod: : scr: Marriott Edgar : dir.ph.:
[Brian Peck](#)
Aubrey Mallalieu; Graham Moffatt; Knox Crichton; Mark Daly

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
2027b	4.5	2	10	980	-	-	-	-	-	No	Unseen



Peter Joe (Brian Peck) has his uncle's will read to him

Source for all stills: Junior Film Annual 1946/47

Junior Film Annual 1946-47 synopsis:

"Peter Joe was left a curious legacy when his uncle died; a pile of theatrical properties, a furniture van and an old horse. Like so many other boys, Peter had always wanted to be a sailor, and now he had a great idea. He would drive his van down to the coast, sell it up along with his strange theatrical gear, and buy a ship. On the way he met two queer people limping along; an old man with a funny beard and

spectacles, called Nobby, and Albert, his young companion. Peter gave them a lift, and soon the three of them were great friends.

Nobby and Albert listened to Peter's story of the plans he had made and thought them rather high-flown. They suggested instead that he could use the van to do furniture-removals and turn it into a kind of ship-on-wheels. Peter became convinced that theirs was really the more sensible idea, especially as they ran just



then into a very plausible man called Grinder

who asked them to do a moving job for him.

What larks, kiddies! What adventure!

Well alright, it's just a paper-thin story involving the antics of some bungling removal men..

*..but just think what Laurel & Hardy were able to do with the same basic premise in **"THE MUSIC BOX"***





*Old vaudevillians
never die, it seems,
they just move into
children's films...*

*Do I hear the thunder
of popcorn raining
down on the screen?*



They were not very expert removers, and all kinds of fantastic adventures with feather beds, glasses and crockery and even custard pies followed before they came to the last piece of furniture to be shifted. This was a chest of drawers belonging to the housekeeper of the big house where they were working. This lady, Mrs Perkins, had been very kind to them and they wanted to take particular care of her property. But their skill wasn't equal to their good intentions. They were staggering down the staircase with the chest of drawers when they dropped it and smashed it to bits.

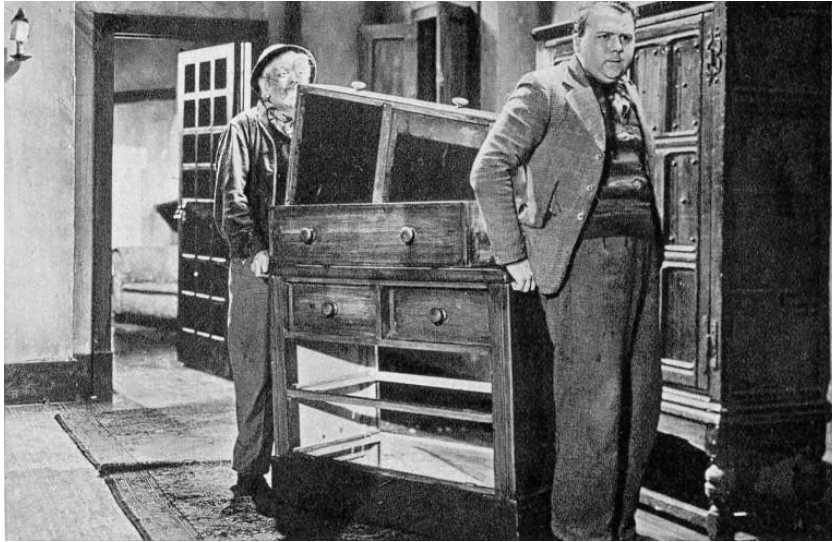
They were all very downcast, but the kind Mrs Perkins consoled them by saying it was of no great value anyway, and that they could keep what was left of it if they liked. They took it, and what should Nobby and Albert find hidden underneath one of the drawers but a pile of banknotes which must have been put there by

the relation of Mrs Perkins who had given her the piece of furniture. Nobby and Albert said they should keep the money as the chest of drawers was now their property, but Peter insisted on them handing it back to Mrs Perkins.

Mr Grinder paid the boys for their day's work, and, leaving Mrs Perkins overjoyed at her good fortune, they set off in their ship on wheels to find new adventures."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video

Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993",
"Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin
Film Guide"]



Winchester's Screen Encyclopedia (1948) note:

"A series of six adventures, with Brian Peck, Mark Daly, Graham Moffatt and Knox Crichton. This series is a revival of custard-pie slapstick comedy, with stories written by Marriott Edgar. (Each 2 reels) :

1: "A Smashing Job"

Peter Joe, Nobby and Albert do a job of furniture removing.

2: "Ghostesses"

They discover a ghost.

3: "All's Fair"

They find a children's theatre at a fairground.

4: "The Soldier's Cottage"

They help to build a "prefab".

5: "The Laundry"

The boys come to the rescue when the laundry girls go on strike.

6: "Stamp Ramp"

Adventures with a stamp collector."



No further information currently available. The word "adventure" does seem unduly elastic whenever it's applied to children's films. By no stretch of the imagination could this be described as an "adventure" and, if the stills and synopsis are any indication, Peter Joe himself takes a back seat for most of the ride, a straight stooge to the clowning adults. Why?

It's certainly true that children of the 1940s were less sophisticated and savvy than their modern counterparts, but that's no excuse for offering them a lower standard of entertainment. Surely some of them would have recognised this for the shallow whimsy it is. And even if it *did* have matinee audiences rolling in the aisles at the easily imagined slapstick antics of "Nobby and Albert", that isn't any reason for not offering them something better. There's an incipient laziness in these films which shows scant respect for the IQ of their target age group. I did not attend any Saturday cinema matinees as a child, but I did watch the audiences hooting at TV's "**Crackerjack!**" and similar slapstick offerings. It seemed lame fare to me then, and I can't have been the only one.

Graham Moffatt was the fat "boy" of the Will Hay knockabout farces (he was 18 in "**GOOD MORNING BOYS**", for example), and he and Mark Daly continued their buffoonery in another C.E.F. title, "**STAGE FRIGHTS**". Brian Peck (if I'm not mistaken) re-emerged later as a serious dramatic actor on stage and TV.

See subject index under **CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT FILMS**, **CIRCUS / FAIRGROUNDS**, **COMEDY** (shudder), **ENTERPRISE / YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS**, **GHOSTS & HAUNTINGS** and **HOBBIES**. Another series produced for the same circuit was "**OUR CLUB MAGAZINE**" – a monthly hobby-based item reporting the doings of various children's clubs, and I would have none of the same reservations toward that.