

The Blue Bird

UK : 1910 : dir. : Gaumont Silent : 23 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

.....
 Pauline Gilmer; Olive Walter; Margaret Murray; E. A. Warburton; Ernest Hendrie;
 Norma Page; Carlotta Addison; Edward Rigby; H. R. Hignett; Doris Lytton; Saba Raleigh;
 C. V. France; Roy Travers

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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The British Film Catalogue 1895-1985 listing:

"Fantasy. Fairy helps selfish children find the bird of happiness. (Theatre Royal production of the play by Maurice Maeterlinck.)"

Cast:

MytylPauline Gilmer
 TytylOlive Walter
 Mummy TylMargaret Murray
 Daddy TylE. A. Warburton
 TyloErnest Hendrie
 TyletteNorma Page
 The FairyCarlotta Addison
 BreadEdward Rigby
 SugarH. R. Hignett
 MilkDoris Lytton
 NightSaba Raleigh
 TimeC. V. France
 CowRoy Travers

[no listing in "Classics of the Silent Screen", "A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen", "Silent Movies: A Picture Quiz Book", "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "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"]

No further information currently available. As a professional stage production, it's unlikely the two child parts were actually played by children. Of the three subsequent film versions, only the 1918 one by Maurice Tourneur seems to have been favourably received at the time. The 1940 Shirley Temple/Johnny Russell remake was completely upstaged by **"THE WIZARD OF OZ"**, while the 1976 Soviet/US version with Mike Lookinland and Patsy Kensit was disembowelled by the critics and flopped at the box office. Having seen none of them, and completely unfamiliar with the source play, it seems to me that, as with J. M. Barrie's whimsical tales, this one does not travel well, and is not the enduring children's fairy tale it may have hoped to be.

See the later versions named, and subject index under **EPIC JOURNEYS, FANTASY / FAIRY TALES / FOLK TALES**, [SILENT CINEMA](#) and [WOMEN AS BOYS / BOYS AS GIRLS](#).