

The Boy and the Convict

UK : 1909 : dir. Dave Aylott : Williamson
prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

Silent : 13 min

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Cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	Ⓜ	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
2182b	1.5	2	1	437	-	-	-	-	-	No	Unseen



Magwich and Pip have their first of many on-screen encounters

Source: NFT Bulletin Nov 94

The British Film Catalogue 1895-1985
listing:

"Crime (10 scenes). Convict freed by blacksmith's boy, makes fortune abroad, and is cleared by dying confession."

NFT bulletin – Nov/Dec 94 – comment on a compilation of early silent Dickensian material:

"A rare chance to see some early films relating to Charles Dickens and his work, including the

earliest surviving British interpretation, "**SCROOGE; or MARLEY'S GHOST**" (UK 1901, dir W.R. Booth), an un-acknowledged 1909 version of "Great Expectations", "**THE BOY AND THE CONVICT**" (dir Dave Aylott), a classic 1912 French entry "**LITTLE NELL**", a fascinating travelogue featuring places and characters from Dickens' novels, "**DICKENS' LONDON**" and more. This is a rare opportunity to see some gems from the silent era."

[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", "The Moving Picture Boy", "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, but then you'd scarcely expect any. The boy is unidentified, but possibly one of the four Williamson sons – Alan, Colin, Tom and Stuart – who made various boy rascal films for their father from 1898. Alan Williamson is the earliest British boy actor for whom we have an identified still. 10 scenes was a respectable length for 1909 – apparently jettisoning all the plot involving Miss Havisham and Estella – although just four years later one company was releasing an 88-minute *colour* version of "**LITTLE LORD FAUNTLEROY**", and a number of "sound" films had already appeared (to be exhibited in tandem with gramophone records).

Later, somewhat lengthier versions of "**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**" were made in 1934 by Stuart Walker, 1946 by David Lean (generally accepted as a cinema milestone), 1974 by Joseph Hardy, 1998 by Alfonso Cuarón (set in the present day) plus several TV serialisations. But this was the first screen Pip.

See subject index under **DESPERADOES / ESCAPED CONVICTS**, [CHARLES DICKENS ADAPTATIONS](#), [HISTORY](#) and [SILENT CINEMA](#).