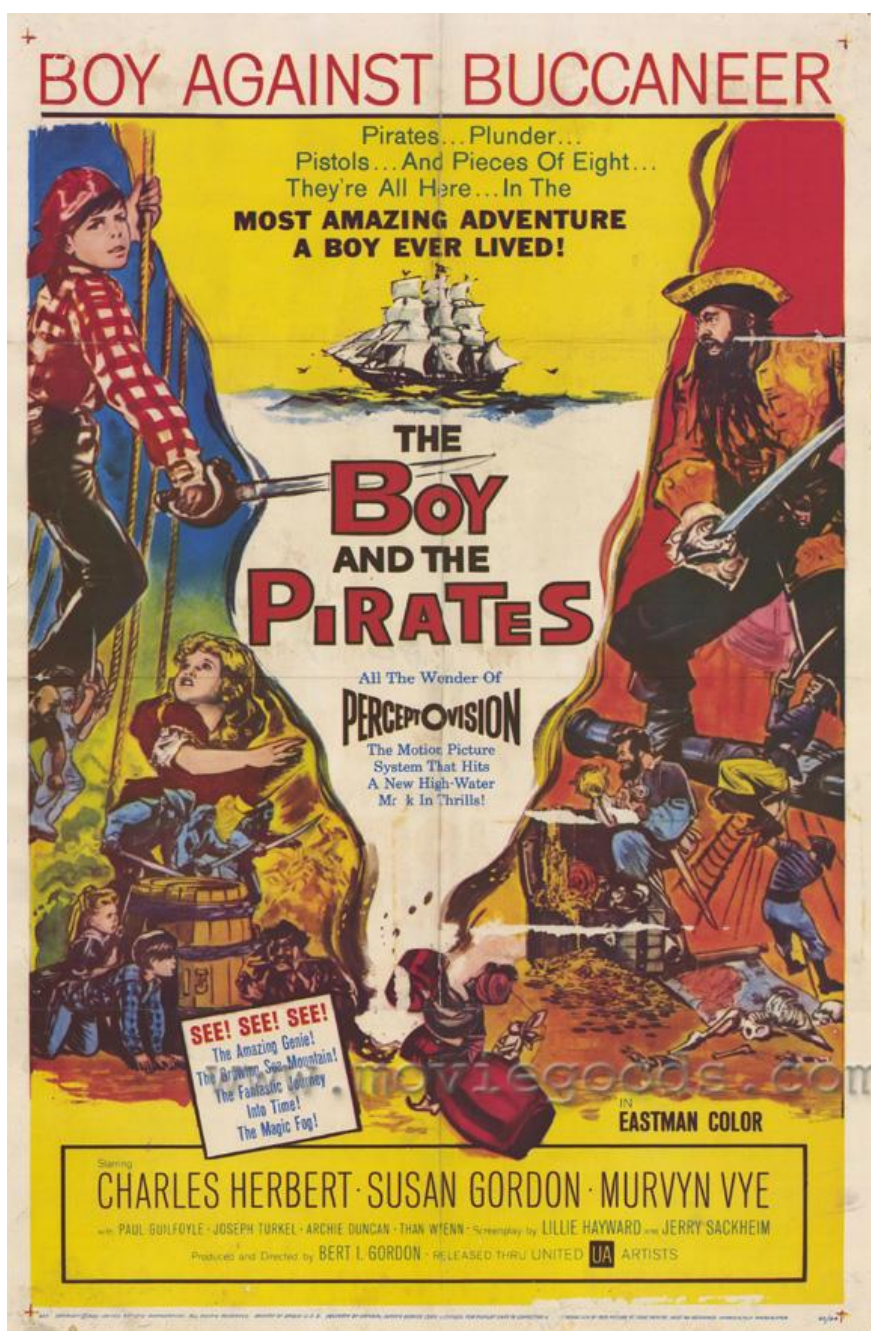


The Boy and the Pirates

US : 1960 : dir. Bert I. Gordon : United Artists : 84 min
 prod: Bert I. Gordon : scr: Lillie Hayward & Jerry Sackheim : dir.ph.:
 Charles Herbert; Susan Gordon
 Murvyn Vye; Paul Guilfoyle; Joseph Turkel; Archie Duncan; Than Wyenn

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Source for all poster stills: Moviegoods.com



Even little girls – in the psychology of film poster art, you'll notice – must be head and shoulders shorter than the hero and clutching to him for their safety. The boy, meanwhile, does his best to break free of her.

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996 review:

"OK fantasy-adventure for kids about a boy who is magically transported back to the days of pirates on the high seas. Vye is well cast as the main cut-throat. ****1/2**"

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review – identical (more or less) to above

Halliwell's Film Guide review:

"A small boy finds an old bottle on the seashore, wishes he could live in pirate days, and hey presto. Modest juvenile fantasy along the lines of **"THE WIZARD OF OZ"** but without the talent."

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89 review:

"Strictly for the young tots. A long dream sequence in which a boy imagines he's involved with pirates and buried treasure. ******"

The United Artists Story note:

"A contemporary youngster is transported back through time by means of a genie to Blackbeard's pirate vessel. Prod: Bert I Gordon. Shot in Eastmancolor."

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Charles Herbert:

"Charles Herbert Saperstein was a square-faced little boy with some droll expressions and tones of voice, good value in films of the late Fifties. He made his bow in 1953 on TV's **"Half-Pint Panel"**, and was later active on the stage, where he earned an Emmy nomination for his performance as a blind child in a play called **"The Miracle Hour"**. After 1960 Charles Herbert made one or two more appearances in TV series like **"The Twilight Zone"** and **"The Outer Limits"**, but not much more."



Charles Herbert

Source: *Boy Actors of the World website*

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Radio Times Guide to Films", "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"]

TV Quick note:

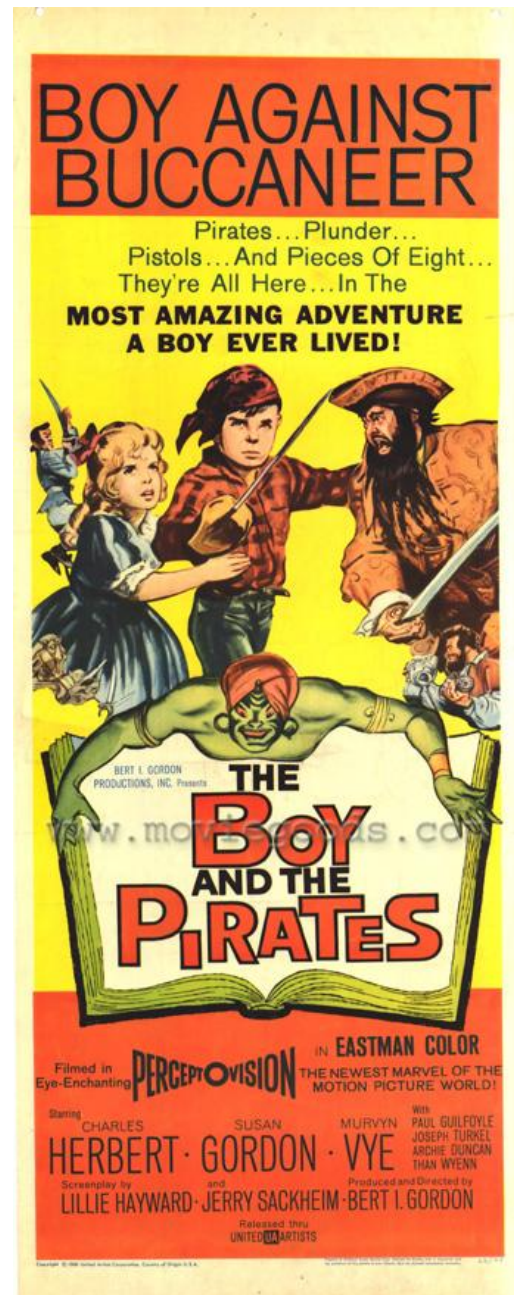
"Time-travel adventure with a small boy whisked back to the days of Jolly Rogers and shivering timbers. Murvyn Vye makes a mean Blackbeard."

What's On TV note:

"Fast-paced fantasy adventure for the kids to enjoy."

Indeterminate TV guide note:

"Sent back through time, a boy meets Blackbeard."



Filmed in the distinctly desperate-sounding "Perceptovision", an "amazing adventure" it certainly isn't, whatever the age of the viewer, unless they've never seen a "**PETER PAN**" or "**TREASURE ISLAND**". I seem to remember it had a general cardboard TV set look about it. That year Charles Herbert also appeared in the ho-hum Doris Day comedy "**PLEASE DON'T EAT THE DAISIES**" and had a more significant role in "**13 GHOSTS**", while in 1958 he had made "**HOUSEBOAT**", "**THE FLY**" and "**THE COLOSSUS OF NEW YORK**". Herbert was clearly in demand, though his abilities would have to be called lightweight. His age here is 11. Susan Gordon doubtless was not unrelated to the producer/director, but nothing else is known of her.

See subject index under **SEAFARING / PIRATES** and.. maybe.. under **SCIENCE FICTION** for 1001 time travel tales, however spurious the mechanism.