

The “Buster Brown” comedies

General note



Source: *The Silents Majority* website

None of the actual titles from this short comedy series (1925-29) is presently known, while the character himself will be as unfamiliar to modern readers as the Katzenjammer Kids. A popular Edwardian newspaper strip figure (similar in behaviour to the later “**DENNIS THE MENACE**”) Buster was an upper middle class American tyke, characterised by the most insufferably precious outfits and oochy coochy coo dialogue, who was perpetually landing in hot water with his mother. The central ethos of the Buster Brown cartoons seems to have been that small boys’ bottoms are great fun to smack, and it was almost exclusively women who indulged themselves in this pleasure, so often that little Buster (and his dog Tige) were well accustomed to such scenes. See the images overleaf for a taste of the spanking humour of the original strip. How much of this – impossibly twee dialogue and all – was translated into the film series is anybody’s guess. Arthur Trimble, as Buster, was 8 when the series began, previously seen in “**ADVENTURES OF PRINCE COURAGEOUS**” (21), “**PINK GODS**” (22) and “**REMEMBRANCE**” (22). There had already been an earlier “Buster Brown” series in 1914, with Norris Millington, and a Danish “**BUSTER BROWN**” in 1911, with “Master Rosenberg”. See subject index under **COMEDY, CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, DOGS, RASCALS & SCALAWAGS, SILENT CINEMA, SILENT SERIES** and **SUPERHEROES / COMIC STRIP CHARACTERS**.

The Silents Majority website caption:

“Doreen Turner, Buster Brown (Arthur Trimble) and "Tige." Trimble starred in the "**Buster Brown Comedies**" (Sten Brothers, for Universal, 1925-29). Gus Meins, the creator of the popular comic-strip character, directed a number of the two-reelers. If Tige looks familiar, it is because he's Pete the Pup who divided his time between Universal and the Hal Roach studios for the **Our Gang** series.”

- Diane MacIntyre