

# Chris and the Wonderful Lamp

US : 1917 : dir. : Silent : ? min  
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:  
[Junior Carnahan](#) .....  
 Adult cast unknown

| Ref:  | Pages | Sources | Stills | Words | Ω □ € Z ⚡ | Copy on VHS | Last Viewed |
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Special FX 1917 style – hot seat and cool seat Carnahan share a single frame Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*

## The Moving Picture Boy entry on Carnahan:

“Handsome Thomas B. Carnahan acted as a child for Biograph, Vitagraph, Kinemacolor, Metro, Pathé, Fox and Thanhouser, to name but a few. From 1911 he was a celebrated figure, in a small way, on the New York stage, then undergoing a vogue for "Children's Theater" - children playing adult roles. He played Dick Deadeye in an all-kid production of "HMS Pinafore", but later specialised in "old man" roles.

In 1914, however, he played Cedric Fauntleroy in Toronto. An uncritical critic called him "a master mimic, a remarkable beauty, a child marvel".

On film, "Junior" Carnahan had the lead in Kinemacolor's **"JACK AND THE BEANSTALK"**, and in **"CHRIS AND THE WONDERFUL LAMP"** acted opposite himself in double image. Twenty years later, as plain Thomas Carnahan, he was still acting on stage, a serious, good-looking leading man."

[no listing in "Classics of the Silent Screen", "Hollywood in the Twenties", "A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen", "Silent Movies: A Picture Quiz Book", "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "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"]

No further information currently available. Carnahan was 13 here. His other films included **"IN THE SHADOW"** (1913), **"THE LATE MR JONES"** (1913), **"THE SEX LURE"** (1916) and **"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN"** (1918).

Einstein was yet to turn the world of physics on its head with his pesky theories, but he might have been amused by the paradox implicit in this still image. One assumes that Chris has conjured up a duplicate self to take his spanking for him, and here they are – spanked Chris and unspanked Chris, corralled together in his room like the proverbial cat, simultaneously both living and dead within the sealed cabinet. Until we open the cabinet and determine the outcome (so says quantum theory, or something) the cat potentially occupies both mutually exclusive states at once. Which Chris will spring from his room when the door is opened?

The same joke is given a slightly different twist in a lively 1970s Czech children's film, **"KAM DOSTACE RANNI PTACE"**, where a mischievous boy inadvertently clones himself by leaving a piece of putty from his mother's laboratory on his windowsill overnight. The clone proves to be his temperamental opposite, and stalks his life volunteering to be punished for all of the original's pranks and mischief. Later, a second clone is thrown into the mix (all three boys played by the same actor) but this one is a fearless hellcat, challenging all the town bullies and thrashing them comprehensively. The looming spectre of cloning in the late 1990s will doubtless prompt other farces on the same theme.

See subject index under **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, FANTASY, SILENT CINEMA** and **TWINS / LOOKALIKES / SWITCHED IDENTITIES**.