

A Day in the Country

UK : 1912 : dir. Lewin Fitzhamon : Fitz Films (W.I.) : 8 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Roy Royston; Marie Royston](#)
 Adult cast unknown

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

"Comedy. Children and dog chase farmer's chickens. The Boy = Roy Royston; The girl = Marie Royston."

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Roy Royston:

"Sympathisers with the harassed clergyman in John Gilling's **"PLAGUE OF THE ZOMBIES"** of 1965, as the hands and arms of the undead sprout like daffodils through the hallowed loam of his churchyard, may not realise that this had once been a blithe boy star of British knockabout comedy. But Roy Royston (born Roy Charles Crowden, though no relation to the admirable Graham Crowden of recent British comedies) had half a century earlier enjoyed two or three hectic years as the kid hero in the films of Lewis Fitzhamon, usually in partnership with his sister Marie.

Roy made his stage debut in December 1910, at the Haymarket Theatre, London, as Tyltyl in a revival of Maeterlinck's *"Blue Bird"*. From 1912, movies took priority for a while, but for the rest of his long career he kept the two strands in tandem.

Besides abundant stage work, Royston appeared sporadically in British films for the rest of his life: they included **"ONE SUMMER'S DAY"** (17), **"MR WU"** (19), **"THE MAGISTRATE"** (21), **"JUST FOR A SONG"** (30), **"THE BIG SPLASH"** (35), **"CONQUEST OF THE AIR"** (40) and of course **"THE PLAGUE OF THE ZOMBIES"** (65).

During World War Two – doubtless influenced by his flying film, **"CONQUEST OF THE AIR"** – he served in the RAF, reaching the rank of squadron leader.

Roy's younger brother Gerald Royston also appeared in a handful of films, including a 1914 version of **"LITTLE LORD FAUNTLEROY"**...

[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. Following up **"CHILDREN OF THE FOREST"** released the previous month. Royston was born on April 5th 1899, making him 13 here, one of the earliest named British boy actors on the screen. No still of him has thus far come to light, but he made twenty of these essentially home movies in the years 1912-14, among them **"A BORE OF A BOY"**, **"DADDY'S DARLINGS"**, **"LITTLE WILLIE'S APPRENTICESHIPS"**, **"THREE LITTLE VAGABONDS"** and **"WHEN THE HURRICANES TOOK UP FARMING"** (another great title). Holstrom does not give Marie's age, but she played with Roy again in **"REPAYING THE DEBT"** and without him in **"AMOROUS ARTHUR"** (12).

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