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Dusty Bates

UK serial : c1947 : dir. : Children's Entertainment Films : 5 x ? min
prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

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Cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	∞	M	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Winchester's Screen Encyclopedia (1948) note:

"This serial, consisting of five two-reel instalments, is the first of its kind to be made in England. It is the story of a young stowaway who, with the son and daughter of the ship's captain, brings to justice a dangerous gang of jewel thieves."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "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)", "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. If the claim is that this was the first ever purpose shot serial in the UK, I would be very much surprised. The plot, on the other hand, is just about as predictable as it *could* be without having physically written it oneself. To understand just why British children's productions from the outset have been so moribund and formulaic, we simply need to take a glance at the composition of the C.E.F's "advisory council" – a withering conclave of establishment interest groups, and not one voice to speak up for creative freedom or cinematic license. Two boys and a girl catch a gang of adult jewel thieves – that would be about par for the course for the next thirty years...

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