

Edgar the Detective

US : 1921 : dir. : Goldwyn Silent : ? min
 prod: : scr: Booth Tarkington : dir.ph.:
[Johnny Jones](#)
 Adult cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ € Z ♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5467	1½	0	1	462	3 - - - -	No	Unseen



Holmes and Watson put the constabulary on their mettle. The disguises make identification awkward – Edgar is presumably on the left, possibly with Edouard Trebaol tugging on the pipe. Source: The Silents Majority website

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Jones:

“Charles Edward Peil, a vigorous, keep-fit boy with rather bulging blue-grey eyes, was the son of actors. His father, Edward J Peil (1888-1958), was a beefy and often menacing stalwart of thrillers and Westerns – he played, for instance, "Evil Eye" in D.W. Griffith's "BROKEN BLOSSOMS" – while his mother, Etta Raynor, was a more graceful performer. Though young Charlie had graced the board at six months, and been in films with Constance

Talmadge (several times) and Mary Pickford (once), besides non-starring roles with the Franklin Kiddies, his identity was kept a strict secret – presumably in the interests of "real, typical American boy-next door quality" – when he was chosen to play **Edgar**, hero of some stories written specially for Goldwyn by Booth Tarkington of "Penrod" fame. (Author, also, incidentally, in 1918, of "The Magnificent Ambersons".)

Edgar is very much a rehash of **Penrod** – the good bad boy with an over-lively imagination –

and Charles Peil became plain Johnny Jones for the duration of these twelve two-reelers and some time after. (Confusingly, Edgar's kid brother Charlie was played by Charlie's kid sister Virginia.)

Changing his screen name to Edward Peil Jr, Charles/Johnny remained in movies till the 1930s."

[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 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. This, sadly, was the last of "**The Adventures and Emotions of Edgar Pomeroy**". Since all but one of them are lost now, we only have a dozen or so stills to judge them by, but they look to have been great fun.

See "**EDGAR AND THE TEACHER'S PET**" for other biographical notes, comments on the series and a list of the full twelve titles. Johnny Jones was 13.

See subject index under **COMEDY, KID DETECTIVES, SILENT CINEMA, SILENT SERIES** and **BOOTH TARKINGTON**.