

Freckles

US : 1928 : dir. Leo Meehan : Silent : 68 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Leon Holmes](#)
 Johnny Fox Jr; Eulalie Jensen; Hobart Bosworth

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ € Z ♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"A freckled youth falls in love with the daughter of his boss, a timber merchant. When lumber is stolen he has the opportunity to reveal himself as hero and gain his self-confidence. Sentimental film, shot in 1917 by Paramount, in 1935 by RKO and in 1960 by 20th Century Fox. From the 1903 book by Gene Stratton Porter. *½ "

[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)", "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"]

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Johnny Fox:

" "An unattractive freckled youth with decidedly crude manners," wrote an ungenerous reviewer in 1926. "His performance makes up in energy, however, what it lacks in charm." A later judge, while allowing that the red-haired Fox was no oil painting, remarked on his "alert features and look of candour".

John Fox Jr, a less subtle successor to Wesley Barry, had apparently been a timid little boy, who learned confidence from acting. He made a forceful impression in "ONE GLORIOUS DAY" as an aggressive spirit called Ek, who enters with entertaining results into the body of a mild professor (Will Rogers); and was notable in 1923 as a banjo-strumming kid in "THE COVERED WAGON". His best juvenile part, though, was as the Western Union messenger hero of "THE MIDNIGHT MESSAGE".

Johnny Fox continued in movies till the end of the silent period, with at least one more leading part in 1928 as the hero of (naturally) "FRECKLES". Then he took to screen writing, on films like "THE TRAIL OF THE LONESOME PINE" (36) and "THE LITTLE SHEPHERD OF KINGDOM COME" (61)."

No further information currently available. It seems staggering now that a story so banal should have been filmed no fewer than four times by four major studios. Fox was around 19

in 1928, but Leon Holmes was 15. Fox had played in the 1921 "**PECK'S BAD BOY**" with Jackie Coogan, "**DO IT NOW**" (24), "**DON'T**" (25) and "**LADDIE**" (26) among many others, while Leon Holmes' films included "**FRISCO SALLY LEVY**" (27), "**THE KING OF KINGS**" (27) and a series called "**FOX RASCALS**" in 1928.

See the 1935 remake, which featured Virginia Weidler, and subject index under **SILENT CINEMA** and **SPOTTY FACES** (well alright, skip the last one).