

Glamour Boy

(UK = "Hearts in Springtime")

US : 1941 : dir. Ralph Murphy : Paramount

: 79 min

prod: Colbert Clark : scr: Bradford Ropes & Val Burton : dir.ph.:

Darryl Hickman; Ann Gillis

Jackie Cooper; Jackie Searl; Susanna Foster; Walter Abel; William Demarest

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Hickman is kitted out in the same outfit Cooper wore as "SKIPPY" in 1931

Source: The Moving Picture Boy

Halliwell's Film Guide review:

"An ex-child star finds himself tutoring his successor. Quite an appealing peep inside Hollywood, and especially wry at the time because the star was still a household word. **"

"One of the happiest idea picture turned out by Hollywood in a long time." — **Variety**

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89 review:

"Appealing satire of Hollywood features Jackie as a former child star coaching a new film prodigy. Includes clips from eight-year old Jackie's big success "SKIPPY" (1931) and trades successfully on Cooper nostalgia. **1/2"

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Hickman:

“One of Hollywood’s most appealing boy actors – no relation to Cordell Hickman, who was somewhat darker – was named by his screen-struck mother after Darryl F Zanuck. The views of his father, an insurance salesman, aren’t known, but it was when he was talking insurance with a lady called Ethel Meglin – who happened to run a famous drama school for children – that the boy’s die was finally cast. He had been showing off almost as soon as he could walk (“I was the biggest hambone that ever lived”, he said later) and it was now a matter of developing and polishing the talent.

In his early years Darryl had the air of a soulful duckling – irresistible when he was also trying to look tough and independent. One eye he caught was that of Bing Crosby, visiting the Meglins to pick some song-and-dance kids for **"THE STAR MAKER"**. Bing’s brother Everett, an agent, was sufficiently impressed to take Darryl on, and soon afterwards landed him a five-year contract with MGM. Archer Winston of the New York Post described his performance in **"MEN OF BOYS TOWN"** as "equal parts Al Capone and Tiny Tim".

Darryl’s younger brother Dwayne Hickman appeared with him in **"CAPTAIN EDDIE"**, and went on to play more parts in the late Forties, largely in the **RUSTY** (dog and boys) series. He returned to the screen a decade later and played several adult leads in the Sixties, besides achieving TV fame as Dobie Gillis.

Darryl himself has continued more or less unabatedly in show business, apart from an unexpected moment in 1951 when he entered a seminary to study for the priesthood. (A

month later he was out again.) He was a regular screen teenager for some time, in films like **"FIGHTING FATHER DUNNE"** (48) and **"THE HAPPY YEARS"** (50, playing opposite a new boy star, Dean Stockwell).

His twenty or so films in the Fifties and Sixties included **"DESTINATION GOBI"** (53), **"TEA AND SYMPATHY"** (56), **"THE IRON SHERIFF"** (57), **"THE TINGLER"** (59) and **"JOHNNY SHILOH"** (62). He had also been doing some stage work of a song-and-dance nature, and in 1963 took over from Robert Morse on Broadway in *"How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying"*. He wrote for TV, and in the 1970’s was a TV programmer for CBS, then executive producer on the soap opera **"Love of Life"**. At the same time he and Dwayne had taken over the running of their father’s insurance business. Darryl still played occasional screen roles, as in **"NETWORK"** (76) and **"SHARKY’S MACHINE"** (81)."

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "A Pictorial History of the Talkies", "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. What an awful alternative title for the UK market! Clearly a film of great interest to the archive, a knowing self-referential piece on the culture of the studio-groomed child star. It would probably be too much to hope for that it might also carry a bite. So why is it absent from so many of the usual sources? Even Holmstrom, surprisingly, makes no overt reference to it in his piece on Darryl Hickman.

[Hickman](#) was 11, but he’d been on screen from the age of six. He never came to prominence – unlike Cooper before him – with a major boyhood role, but was constantly in work through his teens, and appeared in one or two significant pictures, e.g. **"THE GRAPES OF WRATH"** (40) and **"MEET ME IN ST LOUIS"** (44). Jackie Searl was 21 now, Ann Gillis 14.

See subject index under **CHILD PERFORMERS / CHILD STARS**. Jackie Searl and Mitzi Green appeared in another Hollywood comedy on the same theme – **"FORBIDDEN ADVENTURE"** (31). Good luck finding information on that one too.

