

The Heart of a Child

US : 1913 : dir. : Thanhouser Silent : ? min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Leland Benham](#)
 Ethyle Cook [?]

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5558	1.5	0	1	385	3	-	-	-	-	No	unseen



Resembles a study for "The Secret Garden". The maid is unidentified, but probably Leland's mother, actress Ethyle Cook. The details of that early 20th century nursery are fascinating. Source: The Silents Majority website

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Benham:

"Leland was very much "the Thanhouser boy" from his seventh to eleventh years. His father, Harry Benham (1886-1969) was a Thanhouser star, together with his mother, Ethyle Cook (1880-1949) and kid sister Dorothy. He was generally teamed, though, with one or both of two other little girls: Marie Eline ("the Thanhouser kid") and Helen Badgley ("the Thanhouser kidlet"). From 1916 Leland and family left to work for other companies.

He was an intelligent, grown-up looking child, and presumably a useful mimic, since in June 1915 he won third prize in a Charlie Chaplin impersonation contest at a Chaplin night at Murray's restaurant, New York."

[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. Not to be confused with a 1994 TV movie of the same name. [Leland Benham](#) was 8 and, like many child actors of his generation, made more films in five years than any four contemporary boy stars put together. Some of his work may still survive, but the bulk of it is known now only from stills, or trade reviews of the day. The titles are a tantalising hint of what is lost – **"THE CLOTHES LINE QUARREL"** (13), **"A MOHAMMEDAN CONSPIRACY"** (14), **"DO UNTO OTHERS"** (15), **"A PERPLEXING PICKLE PUZZLE"** (15).

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