

Hoosier Schoolboy

US : 1937 : dir. William Nigh : Monogram : 62 min
 prod: : scr: Robert Lee Johnson : dir.ph.:

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 Mickey Rooney; Anne Nagel; Frank Shields; Edward Pawley; William Gould

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	Ⓜ	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996 review:

"Perceptive little Depression-era melodrama detailing the myriad problems of the title character (Rooney). The scenario depicts everything from the plight of forgotten WW1 veterans to greedy capitalists who cause strikes and strife. ****1/2**"

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"Routinely-made low budget film in a rustic setting, where juvenile delinquent Rooney is rescued by schoolmistress Nagel from the hands of his drunkard father. She spares him a life of poverty. ******"

Halliwel's Film Guide review:

"A rural boy defends his drunken father, shell-shocked in the war. Simple tale for rural audiences. Scr: Robert Lee Johnson, from the novel by Edward Eggleston."

"A compelling film which word of mouth might turn into a sleeper" - **Variety**

[no listing in "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"]

No further information currently available. [Mickey Rooney](#) was already 17, so the title's interest to the archive is only slender, but two years previously he'd appeared in the lighter "**AH, WILDERNESS!**", with a similar rustic family setting, and of course he played more delinquents than you could shake a stick at, most memorably in "**BOYS' TOWN**" (38). Rooney's half-pint hellcat persona, off-screen as well as on, won him as many detractors as admirers, but he was a bona-fide solo child star of the late silents, and a major Hollywood 'property' as an adolescent, and it's easy to forget that he was capable of underplaying in support roles, as he did in '**CAPTAINS COURAGEOUS**', making no attempt to steal scenes from star Freddie Bartholomew. Strident it certainly was at times, but it was a genuine talent all the same.

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