

Huckleberry Finn

US : 1931 : dir. Norman Taurog : Paramount : 80 min
 prod: : scr: Grover Jones & William Slavens McNutt ! : dir.ph.: David Abel
Junior Durkin; Jackie Coogan; Mitzi Green; Jackie Searl
 Eugene Pallette; Clara Blandick; Jane Darwell; Clarence Muse; Lillian Harmer; Oscar Apfel;
 Charlotte V Henry

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	□	≠	Z	⊗	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Gleeful Jackie Searl wields the little bell which has the same efficacy on other boys as garlic on a vampire.
 Source: *Those Endearing Young Charms*

Leonard Maltin's TV Movies and Video Guide review:

"Life on the Mississippi with Huck, Tom Sawyer, and Becky Thatcher. Charming but very, very dated; a follow-up to the previous

year's "TOM SAWYER" with the same cast.
 **½ "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review – identical to above

Halliwell's Film Guide review:

"The river adventures of Mark Twain's scapegrace hero. Adequate early talkie family film."

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89 review:

"A companion piece to 1930's popular TOM SAWYER with some of the same cast reprising their roles. Life on the Mississippi according to Hollywood and, for all the sweetening of Twain's mischievous tale, this is satisfactory. **½"

That Was Hollywood – the 1930s review:

"Paramount followed up its success with **"TOM SAWYER"** by putting Jackie Coogan and Junior Durkin to work again as Tom and Huck in another Mark Twain adaptation, supported as before by Mitzi Green, Jackie Searl, Clara Blandick and Jane Darwell, and directed by Norman Taurog. Tom and Huck saved two helpless girls (Charlotte V Henry and Lillian Harmer) from two rascals (Eugene Pallette and Oscar Apfel). Clarence Muse was Tom's young negro friend. This version was scripted by Grover Jones and William Slavens McNutt. Paramount had previously filmed the story in 1919 and MGM would be next in 1939."

Those Endearing Young Charms note:

"In this continuation of the popular Mark Twain novel **"TOM SAWYER"**, Jackie [Searl] has the role of Tom's mean little brother, Sid, while Jackie Coogan and Junior Durkin play Tom and Huck."

Variety Film Guide 1993 review:

"It's the second Mark Twain story to be done by Paramount, first being **"TOM SAWYER"**. Same quartet that did **"SAWYER"** reunite in Jackie Coogan, Junior Durkin, Mitzi Green and Jackie Searl. The latter two only appear in a minor way at the beginning. That's after the first 1,000 feet or so when Searl, Green and the other practically disappear, a young adolescent - looking like sweet 16 - taking up from there on. She's attractive, soft-voiced Charlotte V Henry for whom Huck Finn changes his mind about women.

Durkin is excellent throughout, overshadowing Coogan, who in spots is permitted to appear and talk in a too adult manner. [sic] His early love scene assignments with Mitzi Green drag in an unnatural touch. But for Durkin's able and natural characterisation all the way, this might have meant serious injury to the picture. Norman Taurog's direction is balanced and smooth."

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

"Scapegrace" is a splendid word, isn't it? They sure don't make words like that anymore. The interesting thing about the Variety Guide reviews is that they are contemporaneous with the film's release, and have not been adjusted with the benefit of hindsight. This film clearly marks one-time child phenomenon Coogan's star on the wane. He was already 17 here, so the protest above about him being allowed to talk and act in "too adult" a manner seems silly now.