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Jamie

UK TV series : 1971 : London Weekend Television : 13 x 30 min
dir. Antony Kearey, Geoffrey Nethercott, Bryan Izzard, John Reardon, David Coulter
prod: Antony Kearey : scr: Denis Butler : dir.ph.:
[Gary Miller; Nigel Chivers](#)
Jo Kendall; Ben Aris; Aubrey Morris

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The Encyclopedia of TV Science Fiction entry:

“ **"Jamie"** was a 13-year old boy who travelled through time on a magic carpet, meeting such notable historical characters as Guy Fawkes, Nelson, Samuel Pepys, Robert the Bruce and William the Conqueror. Jamie discovers his carpet in a junk shop and learns its secret from the mysterious Mr Zed who prompts him to make his journeys back into the past. Jamie would sit on his carpet which would rise then whirl round faster and faster, flipping back through time. Mr Zed remained an enigma. Nobody could say what age he was - sometimes he was young, sometimes he was incredibly old. But he was certainly "not of this world"...

In the course of the 13-part series (which filled a corner of ITV's Sunday teatime schedules), Jamie tries to warn the Gunpowder plotters of impending treachery, joins Nelson's crew at the Battle of Trafalgar¹, meets his father as a young boy, travels to old Baghdad and 19th-century London, fights the Great Fire of London, learns the legend of Robert the Bruce and the spider and, finally, goes back to 1066. On some of his sorties he was joined by his best friend Tink.

Writer: Denis Butler; Producer: Antony Kearey; Executive Producer: Francis Coleman
Directors: Antony Kearey, Geoffrey Nethercott, Bryan Izzard, John Reardon, David Coulter.
Broadcast LWT: 6th June - 5th September 1971

Episodes: "The Carpet", "Remember, Remember", "The Sugar Islands", "England Expects", "Summer Holiday", "Prince of Fire", "The Climbing Boy", "The Devil's Rookery", "London Bridge is Falling Down", "New Lamps For Old", "Buttercap", "The Last Adventure", "Dragon's Wake" "

[no listing in "The Golden Age of Children's Television", "Halliwell's Television Companion", "History of Television", "Into the Box of Delights - a History of Children's Television", "Television's Greatest Hits" or "25 Years of ITV - 1955-1980"]

¹ Kiss me, Jamie.. ?

No further information currently available. Not to be confused with the 1954 American series of the same name starring Brandon de Wilde. The "Encyclopedia of TV Science Fiction" is a mine of information on forgotten series such as this one. On the face of it, "**Jamie**" seems a rather obvious bid on LWT's part to imitate the popularity of the BBC's "**Dr Who**" (in continuous runs since 1963) or "**The Time Tunnel**" (imported by the BBC in 1968, and ITV from 1970), although the device of a magic carpet does sound rather lame for a time travel piece.

Another kids' series in the same vein was "**Voyagers!**", in which Meeno Peluce was a boy who accompanied an inept Indiana Jones type figure as he tumbled from time zone to time zone correcting "errors" in the historical record. What made that series amusing was the simple inversion of an adult hero ignorant of history and a long-suffering kid sidekick who always had to fill in the gaps in his knowledge.

As with most such ventures, the "**Jamie**" writer's notions of history seem too didactic, zeroing in always on the most familiar figures and events, yet without the budget to do any of the historical periods justice - the Sunday teatime slot as adjunct to your history homework. Jamie meeting his dad as a boy sounds a more intriguing idea, and an escape from the concept of history as the playground of Famous Men.

Garry Miller, who plays Jamie, landed the part of James in Lionel Jeffries' "**THE AMAZING MR BLUNDEN**" the following year (a title also thinly concerned with time travel, although by means of - wait for it - a magic potion). "The Moving Picture Boy" has no listing for him, nor for Nigel Chivers, who plays his friend Tink Bellow.

See subject index under **HISTORY, SCIENCE FICTION** and **TV SERIES**.