

K graphic

Just William

UK TV series : 1962 : dir. : BBC : ? x ? min
prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
Dennis Waterman
Adult cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Kbytes	Ω □ € Z ☼	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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The characteristic nose and eyes of Dennis Waterman, but at 14 Source: Golden Age of Children's Television

The Golden Age of Children's Tele-vision comment:

"...Other comedy favourites included little Charlie Drake and 6ft 3in Jack Edwardes as **"Mick and Montmorency"**, Dennis Waterman as **"Just William"** and Colin Douglas as slow-thinking crook **"Bonehead"**, who could barely break into a sweat let alone a bank..."

Into the Box of Delights - a History of Children's Television note:

"Comedy drama and situation comedy have been part of children's television since the 1950s. Both **"Billy Bunter of Greyfriars School"** and **"Just William"** made easy transitions from book to screen. **"Billy Bunter"** was transmitted between 1952 and 1961. The first producer, Joy Harington, was responsible for casting a thirty-year old actor, Gerald Campion, as Bunter. Casting an adult in a child role would not be acceptable today. There were two series of **"Just William"**, in 1962 starring fourteen-year old Dennis Waterman and in 1963 starring thirteen-year old Denis Gilmore."

[no listing in "BBC TV Presents: a Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration", "Halliwell's Television Companion", "History of Television", "How Sweet It Was" or "Television's Greatest Hits"]

Radio Times retrospective notes:

"1962: Denis Waterman, 14, played Richmal Crompton's creation in **"William and the Leopard Hunter"**..."

"1962: Denis Waterman had already completed a season with the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford and a film, **"NIGHT TRAIN TO INVERNESS"** [sic], before landing the lead role as William at the age of 14 for the BBC. But he was all grown up by the time he went on to play D.S. Carter in **"The Sweeney"** and Terry McCann in **"Minder"**."

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Waterman:

"Sandy-haired Dennis, who attended the Corona School from the age of eleven, was the younger brother of the European welterweight boxing champion Peter Waterman, and shared some of his pugnaciousness. Around 1960 he had the lead on an "alternative" LP of Bart's "Oliver!", played in Shakespeare at Stratford-on-Avon and in "The Music Man" on the London stage, and became TV's first incarnator of Richmal Crompton's **William**."

In 1962 Dennis landed a five-year contract with Desilu for a TV series called **"Fair Exchange"**, about a cockney family in New York. His biggest film role was for the Children's Film Foundation in **"GO KART GO!"**

Dennis did little filming in his mid-teens. Then he returned with a vengeance. Subsequent films included **"UP THE JUNCTION"** (67), **"THE SMASHING BIRD I USED TO KNOW"** (69), **"MY LOVER, MY SON"** (69), **"WEDDING NIGHT"** (69), **"THE SCARS OF DRACULA"** (70), **"MAN IN THE WILDERNESS"** (US 71), **"FRIGHT"** (71), **"THE BELSTONE FOX"** (73), **"SWEENEY!"** (76) and **"SWEENEY 2"** (78).

These last two were derived from the long-running TV cop series **"The Sweeney"**, in which he had an important part; a lead in another similar series, **"Minder"**, followed and lasted even longer. Since then Waterman has developed into a popular leading man, mainly on stage and television, but without any particular charm or lightness of touch."

No further information currently available. Waterman is the third known **William**, following Dicky Lupino and William Graham. He was succeeded in turn by Adrian Dannatt for LWT's "**Just William**". The still on the title page is from the episode "William and the Leopard Hunter". In 1960 Waterman lent his voice to the animated title "**ALI AND THE CAMEL**", but he also made small appearances in "**NIGHT TRAIN FOR INVERNESS**" (59), "**SNOWBALL**" (60), "**THE PIRATES OF BLOOD RIVER**" (61) and – while he was in the US – "**CROOKS ANONYMOUS**" (62). He also appeared in two TV productions omitted from Holmstrom's list – "**MEMBER OF THE WEDDING**" (59 , presumably in the part played by Brandon DeWilde for the 1952 film version) and "**ALL SUMMER LONG**" (60).

See subject index under **KIDS OUTWIT THE CROOKS, SCAMPS & SCALAWAGS** and **TV SERIES**.