

Leapfrog as Seen by the Frog

UK : 1900 : dir. Cecil M Hepworth : Silent : 50 sec
 prod: Cecil M Hepworth : scr: : dir.ph.:

.....
 Cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5719	0.5	1	0	363	-	-	-	-	-	No	Unseen

The British Film Catalogue 1895-1985
 listing:

“Comedy. Boys run towards camera and leap over it..”

[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", "Bloomsbury Foreign Film Guide", "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. One of the all-time great film titles. Bit thin on plot though. In October of that year the same simple idea was stolen and served up again as the Riley Brothers' "**LEAPFROG**" (75 seconds), but the short description does not indicate that boys were doing the leaping. It should be remembered that film-makers of this day were still working largely in isolation, and fumbling towards a new visual grammar. For many years the camera remained completely static, for example, editing was rudimentary, and close-up shots were used only in novelty items about exaggerated facial expression. Seen in that light, the actors physically springing over the camera here were taking a genuine step forward in that visual vocabulary, making the camera, and hence the audience itself, a physical presence in the scene.

Denis Gifford's *British Film Catalogue* is a staggering work of research, listing virtually every live action film shot in the UK over the first ninety years of the cinema, but uniquely valuable for information on these earliest silent pieces, the great majority of which we must assume to be lost.

See subject index under **HOBBIES / COLLECTING / GAMES** for other instances of traditional children's games on film, and [SILENT CINEMA](#).