

Little Mickey Grogan

US : 1927/28 : dir. : FBO Silent : ? min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
 Frankie Darro
 Adult cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ € Z ☺	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Dodging the law, in the time-honoured tradition of Chaplin, Keaton et al

Source: The Silents Majority website

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"Frankie's real name was Johnson. His parents were vaudevillians, and with the get-up-and-go attitude typical of theatrical babies of the period he lost no time in getting into the family act in Chicago. (Frank Johnson Sr was in young Frankie's first film, "**JUDGMENT OF THE STORM**", in which the tot performs "an acrobatic dance".) He went on to become one of the most active, as well as acrobatic, of all screen children, and in more than twenty Westerns between 1925 and 1929 he was the kid sidekick of cowboy star Tom Tyler. But

he also played in very different kinds of film: in sentimental drama or, for instance, as Harry Langdon as a boy in "**LONG PANTS**".

His work rate was prodigious - by 1930 he claimed to have been in "fifty Western pictures and several hundred others". No wonder he sometimes had a harassed air. If Darro's claim is to be believed, even our vast list represents less than half of his output. He continued in his teens to work busily - sometimes as a jockey (using his ridin' skills), sometimes as a delinquent (with his seen-it-all look, which can't be then have needed much practice). He

did fine work in "**WILD BOYS OF THE ROAD**" (33), "**NO GREATER GLORY**" (34) and "**LITTLE MEN**" (35). He was in several more serials, such as "**THE WOLF DOG**" (33), "**BURN 'EM UP BARNES**" (34), "**PHANTOM EMPIRE**" (35) and "**JUNIOR G-MEN OF THE AIR**" (42). He provided the voice of Lampwick in Disney's "**PINOCCHIO**" (40), and can still be seen in a few films of the fifties and sixties, like "**PAT AND MIKE**" (52) and "**THE CARPET-BAGGERS**" (64)."

[no listing in "Classics of the Silent Screen", "Hollywood in the Twenties", "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", "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. *The Silents Majority* and *The Moving Picture Boy* conflict over the exact year of release, so Darro was 8 or 9. Holmstrom lists 82 films and serials for him 1923-39, making him unquestionably the most prolific child actor known to the archive. In many of those titles his role would have been very slight (even as late as "**THE MAD GENIUS**", 31, where he had a bit part as a fleet-footed boy "adopted" by circus mesmerist Lionel Barrymore) but here at least he is the title character. The little girl pictured with him is not identified.

See subject index under **SILENT CINEMA**.