

Long John Silver

(aka: "Return to Treasure Island")

Australia : 1954 : dir. Byron Haskin : TI Pictures

: 109 min

prod: Joseph Kaufman : scr: Martin Rackin : dir.ph.: Carl Guthrie

[Kit Taylor](#)

Robert Newton; Connie Gilchrist; Grant Taylor; Rod Taylor

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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New Jim, same old Silver, in a lazy retread of Disney's popular first live-action film. If Hawkins looks glum, perhaps it's because he remembers the island was pretty well cleaned out on the first visit, and he swore he'd never return. There's an old saying, Jim lad – "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me".

Source: The Moving Picture Boy

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide
2001 review:

"Newton reprises title role from **"TREASURE ISLAND"** (with same director as the Disney film) and chews the scenery in this loose adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson. Look for Rod Taylor in a small role. Aka: **"RETURN TO TREASURE ISLAND"**. Shot in CinemaScope. **1/2 "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie "free adaptation" of the above:

"Newton reprises his title role from the Disney film **"TREASURE ISLAND"**, from the same director. He steals the show in this free adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story. One of Rod Taylor's first films. **1/2 "

Halliwell's Film Guide review:

"Back from Treasure Island, Silver and Hawkins plan a return visit with fresh clues to the treasure. Cheaply produced, bitsy-piecy adventure fragments with no-one to restrain the star from eye-rolling."

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89
review:

"The bold buccaneer battles a rival pirate for the spoils of Treasure Island. Entertaining swashbuckling saga, with Newton giving a broadly humorous portrayal. **1/2 "

Rating the Movies (1990) review:

"Entertaining continuation of the **"TREASURE ISLAND"** adventure, with Newton in the title role giving a hammy but lusty portrayal of the gruff buccaneer. In this film, Long John Silver and young Jim Hawkins return to the mysterious island with new clues for another attempt to recover pirates' treasure. Also stars Kit Taylor, Connie Gilchrist, and Grant Taylor. *** "

The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television review:

"Broad, humorous performance from piratical Robert Newton, still buccaneering his way after

Flint's gold. He meets up again with Jim 'Awkins from **"TREASURE ISLAND"** days, and with lots of swash and buckle they're off again. 3 "

TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995 review:

"This was the second film that Robert Newton made in the character he created for **"TREASURE ISLAND"** - Long John Silver, the peg-legged scourge of the Caribbean. The film was produced in Australia, and many good Australian actors go miles over the top in a story that's simply crammed with incident, action and colour. A fair dinkum kid called Kit Taylor takes over from Bobby Driscoll as Jim 'awkins. And it's out with the telescopes, me hearties, to spot the actor lurking behind sightless eyes and a mass of stubble as bad old Israel Hands, waiting for Jim lad who blinded him those many years before¹. Yes, it's a youngster called Rodney (later Rod) Taylor, who went to America the following year and launched a star career that lasted 20 years. The film was made on location in the South Seas, and at Botany Bay, near Sydney, where one of the most expensive sets ever used in an Australian film was constructed: a typical 17th century seafaring town. ** "

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

"Avast me hearties, Robert Newton is at his scene-chewing best in this otherwise unexceptional (and unofficial) sequel to Disney's **"TREASURE ISLAND"**. *** "

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Taylor:

"He was the son of the actor Grant Taylor. When Robert Newton, four years after his eye-rolling triumph as Long John Silver in the 1955 **"TREASURE ISLAND"**, was persuaded to revive the role in an Australian CinemaScope sequel, fair-haired Kit was cast as Jim Hawkins.

Newton and Taylor went on to star in a **"Long John Silver"** series on Australian TV (1955-56). **"UNDER THE BLACK FLAG"** and **"SOUTH SEA PIRATES"** were cobbled together from episodes in this series, so Kit was in fact only 13-14 at the time of filming.

¹ How old was Hawkins at the time then? Six?

Kit Taylor went to work abroad, appearing for instance in "ASSAULT" (GB 70). But in 1974 he returned to Australia, and has since then acted in numerous cinema and TV movies: "HARNESS FEVER" (75), "DON'S PARTY" (76), "WEEKEND OF SHADOWS" (77), "NEWSFRONT" (78), etcetera. Two of these –

"BORN TO RUN" and "HARNESS FEVER" – featured the boy actor Robert Bettles."

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "The Time Out Film Guide", "Variety Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Essentially a pilot, albeit a costly one, for the TV series "**The Adventures of Long John Silver**", again with Newton and Kit Taylor as Jim, but the producer might have expended some effort on developing a fresh storyline to differentiate this from the better known, more lavishly produced Disney original. One wonders what the Disney lawyers had to say when they learned this was in the offing. Needless to point out, some mischief was done to the original characterisations in order to reunite Silver and Hawkins so soon, and convert the murderous Silver into a hero. A later British serial, also called "**Return to Treasure Island**", took as its starting point a chance re-encounter between Silver (Brian Blessed) and an adult Jim Hawkins in Jamaica, and hence needed to take fewer liberties with the story as we left it.

No-one has remarked on any relationship between Kit and Rod Taylor, but it seems a fair guess that he was Rod's younger brother. Here 12, his other films, all in 1956, were "**THE CRISIS**", "**TALE OF A TOOTH**" and "**SHIP O' THE DEAD**", though for all we know these too may have been simple rehashes from the TV series, a disreputable practise followed by "**Lassie**", "**Flipper**" and "**Tarzan**", to name but three American offenders.

See the series which followed, [TREASURE ISLAND – GENERAL NOTE](#) for a list of all other known adaptations, and subject index under [ALL IN THE FAMILY](#), [BOY SIDEKICKS](#), [HISTORY](#), [SEAFARING / PIRATES](#) and [TREASURE HUNTS](#).