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Mr Horatio Knibbles

UK : 1971 : dir. Robert Hird : Children's Film Foundation / Anvil : 60 min
prod: Hugh Stewart : scr: Wally Bosco : dir.ph.:
[Lesley Roach](#)
Gary Smith; Rachel Brennock; Anthony Sheppard; David Lodge; Fred Evans

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ ∅ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Source: *International Encyclopedia of Film*



Mary's invisible friend confesses a craving for carrots and lettuce

Source: NFT Bulletin Aug/Sep 72

Children's Film Foundation catalogue and index of films 1972 notes:

"Mary Bunting is sitting alone when to her surprise and delight a rabbit six foot tall – elegantly dressed in frock coat and waistcoat – appears. As he is a magic rabbit, he can be seen only by Mary, which naturally creates great confusion and misunderstanding. Made by Anvil Film and Recording Group Ltd. Produced by Hugh Stewart. Original story by Wally Bosco. Shot in Eastman Colour."

NFT bulletin – August/September 1972 – review:

"**"MR HORATIO KNIBBLES"** (G.B. 1971) is a Children's Film Foundation production about a six-foot-high magic rabbit which a little girl can see but her parents can't. Eventually he turns up visibly at her birthday party to everybody's delight."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "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"]

Radio Times note:

"Enchanting children's fantasy about a giant rabbit who introduces himself to a young girl named Mary and helps her out of a variety of awkward and hilarious situations."

"Children's fantasy. ** "

What's On TV note:

"A young girl is upset when her parents refuse to give her a rabbit for a birthday present. However, the situation soon improves when she meets a six-foot tall talking bunny."

Sunday Times note:

"A girl unable to own a rabbit discovers an invisible one."

"A girl makes friends with a six-foot, invisible rabbit."

No further information currently available. Shown as part of the NFT's first International Children's Film Festival in 1972, and subsequently cropping up occasionally on TV. But still not rating a mention in any published film guide. Lesley Roach (no relation to Linus Roache, son of William Roache - Ken Barlow of "**Coronation Street**") presumably stars as Mary. It's always refreshing to stumble across the odd Children's Film Foundation title which does not revolve around kids foiling inept adult villains of one sort or another. And, since nobody else has mentioned it, let's remind ourselves, not of Alice's immortalised White Rabbit (waistcoat and all) but of "**HARVEY**" (50), from a Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Mary Chase, in which alcoholic James Stewart is escorted by an affable but invisible six-foot rabbit of the title name. Perhaps little Mary has been hitting the bottle secretly.

See subject index under **ANIMALS, CHILDREN'S FILM FOUNDATION, COMEDY** and **FANTASY / FOLK TALES / FAIRY TALES**.