

# The Nursemaid's Surprise

UK : 1898 : dir. : Riley Brothers Silent : 75 sec  
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

.....  
 Cast unknown

| Ref: | Pages | Sources | Stills | Words | Ω | 8 | ∞ | M | ⌘ | Copy on VHS | Last Viewed |
|------|-------|---------|--------|-------|---|---|---|---|---|-------------|-------------|
| 5744 | 0.5   | 1       | 0      | 312   | - | - | - | - | - | No          | Unseen      |

**The British Film Catalogue 1895-1985**  
 listing:

“Comedy. Tramp changes places with baby  
 and is caressed by its nurse. (Date uncertain)”

[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. The lords of misrule, when they were not in fact small boys, fell into instantly recognisable categories. Long years before Chaplin, tramps were a regular source of comic mayhem in these one-reelers, most of which are of no relevance to the archive. Other variants were the country yokel or the street beggar, and often the very pranks they pulled were the same ones played by small boys in other titles. Audiences knew the types, and what to expect of them.

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 **BABIES, COMEDY, NANNIES / GOVERNESSES / DOMESTIC SERVANTS, [SILENT CINEMA](#) and TRAMPS / VAGABONDS / HOBOES.**