

Oliver Twist

US : 1909/10 : dir. [J. Stuart Blackton] : Vitagraph
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

Silent : ? [14] min

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 Elita Proctor Otis (as Nancy)

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Kbytes	Ω □ ≠ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion general note:

"Dickens' novel was filmed many times in the early silent period: in 1909 by Pathé; in 1910 by Vitagraph; in 1912 by an independent company with Nat C Goodwin as Fagin. A famous American film version of 1916 had Tully Marshall as Fagin and Marie Doro as Oliver; in 1922 the roles were played by Lon Chaney and Jackie Coogan, and in 1933 by Irving Pichel and Dickie Moore.

The definitive version to date, however, is the British one directed by David Lean in 1948, with John Howard Davies in the title role. Alec Guinness' brilliant performance as Fagin "**OLIVER!**", a 1968 musical version, won six Oscars."

A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen note [for 1909]:

"Among the outstanding one-reel features Vitagraph produced were "**KING LEAR**", "**LAUNCELOT AND ELAINE**", "**OLIVER TWIST**" with Elita Proctor Otis as Nancy Sykes, and a film of Annette Kellermann "in her physical culture exercises, diabolo playing, fancy swimming and diving displays".

[no listing in "Classics of the Silent Screen", "Silent Movies: A Picture Quiz Book", "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "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"]

No further information currently available. "**KING LEAR**" as a one-reel silent! It's fervently to be hoped young master Twist wasn't eliminated from this film altogether, even if its climax was the murder of Nancy (or "Mrs Sykes", as the film supposes). The same year as this (1909) Edison released "**THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER**", with (ms) Cecil Spooner in the title roles. Boy actors in the classic boy roles were not much in evidence before 1920.

See also the 1909 Pathé version, remakes in 1912, 1916, 1922, 1933, 1948, 1982 and 1997, not to mention "**OLIVER!**" (68), or numerous TV serialisations. See subject index under **CRIME / DELINQUENCY, DICKENS, GRANDPARENTS, HISTORY, ORPHANS, PRISON / BORSTAL** (which would include workhouses), **RUNAWAYS / STOWAWAYS, SILENT CINEMA, SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS** and **STREET KIDS**. Have I missed any?