

Our New Errand Boy

UK : 1905 : dir. James Williamson : Williamson (Urban)

Silent : 6 min

prod: James Williamson : scr: : dir.ph.:

[Alan Williamson](#)

Adult cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Whoops-a-daisy! Another prank from the dawn of cinema Source: *Moving Picture Boy*
The British Film Catalogue 1895-1985 listing: |

"Comedy. Errand boy makes mistakes in his deliveries and is chased. Boy played by Tom Williamson."

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Williamson (1886-1952):

"James Williamson, a pioneer of British cinema, produced and directed films in Brighton between 1897 and 1909 (after which he devoted himself exclusively to the manufacture and merchandising of film and photographic materials and equipment). He soon began to evolve his own grammar of movie-making, and his **"FIRE!"** of 1901, for instance, depends largely on cross-cutting for its tension. In 1902 he sold his chemist's shop and started full-time production at the Wilbury studios.

His sons Alan, Tom, Stuart and Colin became Britain's first juvenile "household faces". In the **"TWO NAUGHTY BOYS"** films, Alan's co-star was kid brother Colin – and it needs pointing out that the "spoons" in question were not items of cutlery but young people engaged in "spooning" or making love. The titles make exhaustingly clear the pranksomeness of this strand of early cinema."

[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 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. Mistakes and mischief are *not necessarily* the same thing, so this title probably wouldn't count as an authentic spank opera. At least twenty other English films that year alone focused on the pranks of naughty children, but a dull-witted delivery boy would have to qualify as a close relative of that sub-genre.

No such reservations, of course, about Williamson's other outings for his father: **"TWO NAUGHTY BOYS UPSETTING THE SPOONS"** was made in 1898, and followed the same year by **"TWO NAUGHTY BOYS SPRINKLING THE SPOONS"** (the cinema's first sequel?) and **"TWO NAUGHTY BOYS TEASING THE COBBLER"**. One can only pray that two naughty boys received their just deserts for all this unwarranted anarchy. But wait, 1901 saw Alan Williamson again in **"TEASING GRANDPA"** and **"THOSE TROUBLESOME BOYS"**. Would righteousness not prevail in Brighton?

The misadventures of under-16s in the workplace was itself a discrete little sub-genre of silent cinema, with numerous films about hotel page-boys, office-runners, delivery boys and the like. A very recent echo of these appeared in the Dutch children's film **"ABELTJE"** (1999), a comedy fantasy about a young lift-operator transported to Rio de Janeiro and other places in his elevator.

See subject index under **COMEDY**, [SILENT CINEMA](#) and [WORKING BOYS / WORKING GIRLS](#).