

Peck's Bad Boy with the Circus

US : 1938 : dir. Edward Cline : 20th Century Fox ? : 78 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Tommy Kelly](#); [Spanky McFarland](#); [Ann Gillis](#)
 Edgar Kennedy; Billy Gilbert; Benita Hume; Grant Mitchell

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω □ € Z ⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996 review:

"Standard circus story slanted for kiddies. Kennedy and Gilbert wrap this one up. **"

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review - identical to above

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

"Tommy Kelly, the mischievous Peck's Bad Boy, and his ragamuffin gang of troublemakers (including an aging Spanky McFarland) wreak havoc around the circus. Comedy greets Edgar Kennedy and Billy Gilbert are the best part of this kids' film. **"

The Moving Picture Boy (untypically scant) entry on Kelly:

"The 1938 Tom Sawyer was one of thirteen children of a poor Irish family in the Bronx. He was chosen as Tom out of 25,000 interviewed. Freckled Tommy Kelly had three years of celebrity, but the parts grew less rewarding. After a few more films, such as **"DOUBLE DATE"** (41), **"NICE GIRL"** (41), **"MUG TOWN"** (43) and **"THE MAGNIFICENT YANKEE"** (50), he faded back into the crowd."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "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" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Tommy Kelly was 10, in the year of his triumph in Selznick's **"THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER"**. He is credited with a small role in **"GONE WITH THE WIND"** the following year, while he was surprisingly subdued in **"THEY SHALL HAVE MUSIC"**, with Gene Reynolds and Terry Kilburn grabbing most of the limelight. In 1940 he was seen in **"CURTAIN CALL"**, **"GALLANT SONS"**, **"IRENE"**, **"IT'S A DATE"** and **"MILITARY ACADEMY"**, but essentially Tommy was a one-film wonder. Perhaps with a world war raging, there was no great public appetite for naughty boy pictures.

Spanky McFarland, also 10, made various long features after the halcyon days of **OUR GANG**, but none of them in a central role: **"O'SHAUGHNESSY'S BOY"** (35), **"TRAIL OF THE LONESOME PINE"** (36) and **"JOHNNY DOUGHBOY"** (43) among them. He died in 1993.

See previous versions in 1921 and 1934, and subject index under **CIRCUS, COMEDY** and **RASCALS & SCALAWAGS**. For a comparable British title, see **"WILLIAM COMES TO TOWN"** (aka "William at the Circus").