

Penrod and Sam

US : 1931 : dir. William Beaudine : First National : ? min
 prod: : scr: Waldemar Young : dir.ph.:
[Leon Janney](#); [Junior Coghlan](#)
 Matt Moore; Dorothy Peterson; Johnny Arthur; ZaSu Pitts; Charles Sellon; Wade Boteler;
 Helen Beaudine

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω □ ∅ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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"Please God, grant me a better script!"

Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*

The Warner Bros Story review:

"There was an air of contrivance about the remake of "**PENROD AND SAM**" that robbed Booth Tarkington's story of most of its charm and all of its truth. An adult's view of children, it put its two leading youngsters – Leon Janney and Junior Coghlan – into various

situations, all of them calculated, as if by computer, for emotional effect.

Unfortunately, the machinery at the heart of William Beaudine's direction showed, and the emotions experienced were synthetic. Waldemar Young wrote the screenplay, which included parts for Matt Moore, Dorothy Peterson (playing Penrod's mother, Johnny



"No dear, I don't think that disguise will fool your father.."

Source: The Warner Bros Story

Arthur, ZaSu Pitts, Charles Sellon, Wade Boteler and Helen Beaudine. It was remade for a third time in 1937. (First National) "

Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion general note on Penrod:

"Booth Tarkington's American boy character, in his mid-west small town setting, was for many years a favourite Hollywood subject. Marshall Neilan directed Gordon Griffith in a 1922 version. In 1923 William Beaudine directed Ben Alexander in the title role in **"PENROD AND SAM"**, which was remade by Beaudine in 1931 with Leon Janney, and again by William McGann in 1937 with Billy Mauch. Mauch and his twin brother Bobby appeared in two sequels: **"PENROD'S DOUBLE TROUBLE"** (38) directed by Lewis Seiler, and **"PENROD AND HIS TWIN BROTHER"** (38) directed by McGann. Two Doris Day musicals, **"ON MOONLIGHT BAY"** (51) and **"BY THE LIGHT OF THE SILVERY MOON"** (53), were also lightly based on the Tarkington stories: Penrod, unaccountably disguised as "Wesley", was played by Billy Gray."

The Moving Picture Boy incidental note on Wesley Barry's first screen PENROD:

"1914 Booth Tarkington best-seller. Penrod, for the benefit of non-American readers, was the American fore-runner of Richmal Crompton's William, who saw the light eight years later - a creature of wild imagination and grandiose stratagems, from the ruins of which, by a mixture of luck and bluster, he emerges unscathed. Subsequent screen Penrods included Ben Alexander, Leon Janney and Billy Mauch..."

[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"]

No further information currently available. After Wesley Barry and Ben Alexander came Leon Janney in the first talkie from Booth Tarkington's once-popular, now decidedly out of print, scampfests. The 1937 Billy Mauch version is the only one you will find mentioned in the film guides, and even that one is never seen in the UK. Leon Janney was 14, and towards the end of a long career. As an adult he moved into radio and TV, but as a boy is credited with more than fifty films, including the obligatory **Our Gang** outing. In 1927 he appeared in a **BOY ADVENTURE** series, but among his other titles were "**LOVE AND LIONS**" (25), "**THE YOUNGER GENERATION**" (29), "**FATHER'S SON**" (30) and "**CHILDREN OF DREAMS**" (31). He died in Mexico in 1980.

Junior Coghlan.....

See other versions from 1923 and 1937, "**PENROD**" (22), "**PENROD AND HIS TWIN BROTHER**", "**PENROD'S DOUBLE TROUBLE**" and subject index under **DOGS, RASCALS & SCALAWAGS** and **BOOTH TARKINGTON**.