

Poil de Carotte

("Carrot-Top")

France : 1925 : dir. Francois Duvivier :

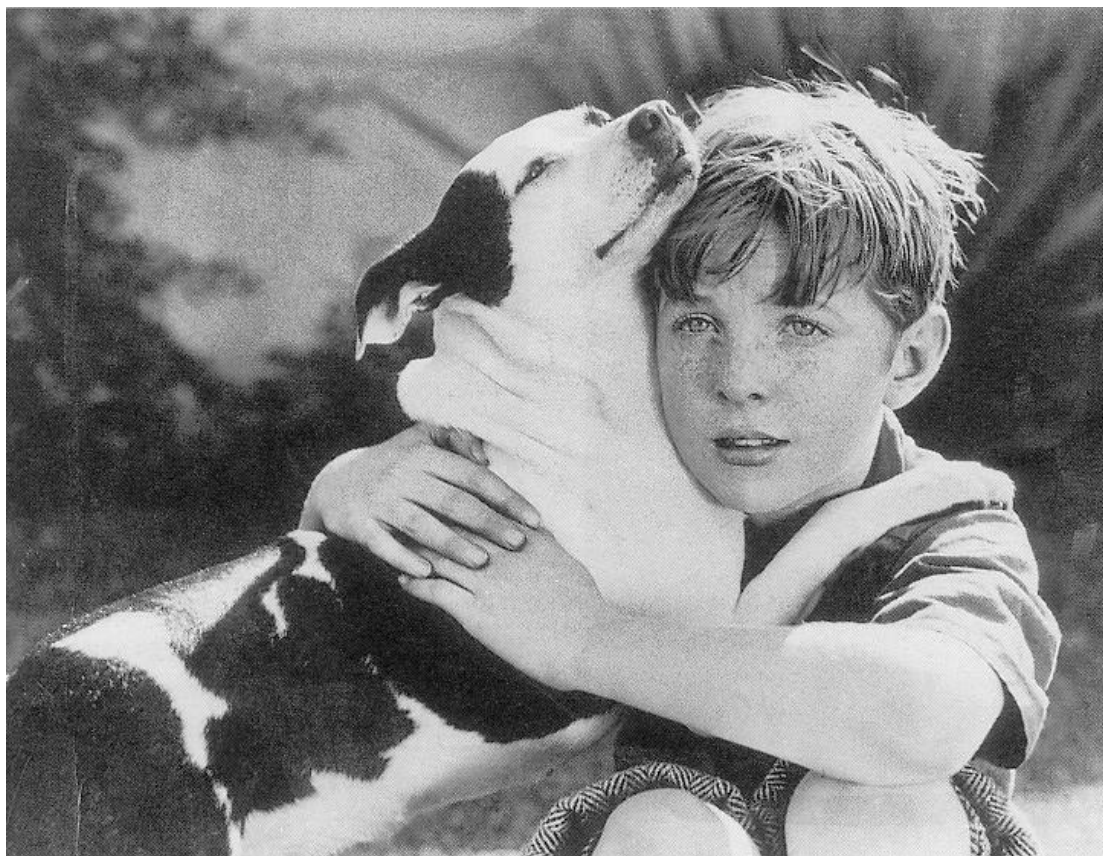
Silent : ? min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

[André Heuzé](#)

Adult cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ € Z ♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
3146a	1½	4	1	709	3 - - - -	No	unseen



Ah well – a boy can always depend on his dog for affection, if no-one else

Source: The Moving Picture Boy

Halliwell's *Filmgoer's Companion* note on 1932 version:

"..Julien Duvivier, who had also directed a silent version of the same story in 1925, made his international reputation with this sensitive, grim story of an unwanted boy being driven to the brink of suicide..."

Excerpt from *The Companion to French Cinema* filmography of Duvivier:

"One of the great French directors of the classical era, Duvivier was revered in the 1930s but later unfavourably compared with Jean Renoir. Assistant to André Antoine, he started making films in 1919, mostly melodramatic literary adaptations such as "**POIL DE CAROTTE**" (1926, which he remade with sound in 1932)..."

World Cinema - a Short History note:

"...These experimental activities, whose reputation and influence on the international cinema were quite disproportionate to the slender financial means with which most of the film-makers worked, went on alongside a commercial cinema at generally low ebb, and largely committed to a sterile policy of literary adaptation. There were some successes in this field nevertheless, generally in the work of Jacques de Baroncelli, Léon Poirier and Henri Fescourt. The young Julien Duvivier (1896-1967) made a notable feature debut with **"POIL DE CAROTTE"** (1925)."

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Heuzé:

"The screen's first **"POIL DE CAROTTE"** may have been André Heuzé junior - son of the film-writer, director and journalist André Heuzé (1880-1942), friend and collaborator of Louis Feuillade among others. Jules Renard's 1894 novel, with its portrait of a rustic child misunderstood by his father and persecuted to the point of suicide by an appalling stepmother and a slob of an elder brother, provided France's boy actors with a classic role in theatre and cinema adaptations. It has been filmed

four times for the cinema, and Duvivier's 1925 version was the first of them. (His 1932 sound remake, with Robert Lynen as "Carrots", is the best-known, and it was shot again in 1951 with the over-ripe Christian Simon and in 1973 with the overweight François Cohn.) Heuzé is more spirited and skittish than his successors, but all the more piteous in his final despair. The film itself, with memorable adult performances and a sharp, fresh feel of the open air, deserves to be seen as often as Duvivier's other fine rendering."

[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", "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. Holmstrom judges Herzé to be 12. He is accredited with four subsequent films - **"LE DIABLE AU COEUR"** (26 - also remade several times), **"LE GRAND ÉPREUVE"** ("The Big Test", 27), **"GRAINE AU VENT"** ("Seed in the Wind", 28) and **"LES SABLES MOUVANTS"** ("The Shifting Sands", 29). The Belgian rustic novel **"DE WITTE VAN SICHEM"**, filmed twice, is similar in some respects, although its hang-dog boy central character is not driven quite to self-immolation. Prominent French silent boy star Jean Forest attempts suicide in a fit of remorse at the climax of **"VISAGES D'ENFANTS"** (23), but in that instance is rescued by a benign stepmother he has rejected throughout the film. As she nurses the half-drowned boy in her lap he gazes into her eyes and mutters "Maman" for the first time, and the audience drowns in their own tears. Gosh, where are my cynicism pills..?

See remakes in 1932, 1951 and 1973, and subject index under **CRUELTY / MALTREATMENT, DEATH / DYING CHILDREN, FARMS & FARMING, SILENT CINEMA** and **STEPMOTHERS / STEPFATHERS**.