

The Prince and the Pauper

US : 1909 : dir. : Edison Silent : ? min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

.....
 Cecil Spooner (ms)

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ € Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
3619a	1½	3	1	483	7 - - - -	No	unseen



*Sir Miles Hendon to the rescue – of a blowsy androgyne who would be king. Tom Canty's father lies in foreground.
 Source: A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen*

A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen note:

“1909: Edison’s most notable film was **"THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER"** with Miss Cecil Spooner in the dual role.”

Incidental note from **The Moving Picture Boy** entry on Tibor Lubinszky (star of **"PRINZ UND BETTELKNABE"**):

“...An earlier **"PRINCE AND PAUPER"** made by Edison had Cecil Spooner (female) in the title roles.”

Halliwell’s **Filmgoer’s Companion** general note:

“Mark Twain’s mediaeval story, about a prince and a commoner who change places, was filmed in 1909, in 1915 with Marguerite Clark; in 1923 with Tibi Lubin; in 1937 with the Mauch twins (and Errol Flynn); and in 1962 with Sean Scully.”

[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 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. The age of the oddly-named Cecil Spooner is not known, but she falls into the silent cinema tradition of Marie Doro as "**OLIVER TWIST**", Mary Pickford as "**LITTLE LORD FAUNTLEROY**", Shirley Mason as Jim Hawkins, Betty Bronson as "**PETER PAN**", and many others. In 1915 Famous Players remade the Twain story with Marguerite Clark in the hose and crown. The 1923 version Halliwell refers to with Tibi Lubin (Tibor Lubinszky) was in fact the 1920 Austrian film "**PRINZ UND BETTELKNABE**". It was not until 1937 that Hollywood decided to tackle the subject with honest to goodness boys, and even then they were wholly upstaged by Errol Flynn as Miles Hendon. Whyever didn't Twain write "The Princess and the Serving Wench"? Then we might have seen boys cast in the leads, I daresay.

See also "**PRINZ UND BETTELKNABE**" (20), remakes in 1915, 1932 (India), 1937 and 1962, TV versions in 1957, 1975 and 1996, "**CROSSED SWORDS**" (77), "**P.J. AND THE PRESIDENT'S SON**" (76), and "**DOUBLE SWITCH**" (87), all based to a greater or lesser extent on the Twain story. See subject index under **ARISTOCRACY / ROYALTY, EYEWITNESSES TO MURDER, HISTORY, ORPHANS / ADOPTION, RUNAWAYS / STOWAWAYS, SILENT CINEMA, SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS, STREET KIDS, MARK TWAIN ADAPTATIONS, TWINS / LOOKALIKES / SWITCHED IDENTITIES** and **WOMEN AS BOYS / BOYS AS GIRLS**.