

Roughly Speaking

US : 1945 : dir. Michael Curtiz : Warner Bros : 117 min
 prod: Henry Blanke : scr: Louise Randall Pierson : dir.ph.: Joseph Walker
[Johnny Sheffield](#); [Johnny Calkins](#); [Mickey Kuhn](#)
 Rosalind Russell; Jack Carson; Robert Hutton; Jean Sullivan; Alan Hale; Donald Woods;
 Andrea King; Ray Collins; Kathleen Lockhart

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:

"Generally good but long comedy-drama of Russell raising a family while hubby Carson embarks on wild moneymaking schemes; two stars are tops. *** "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review - identical to above

Halliwell's Film Guide review

"Oddball, overlong domestic drama about father's wild and impractical schemes. Scr: Louise Randall Pierson, from her own book. * "

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89
 review:

"Ambitious wife struggles to aid her ne'er-do-well husband in his business schemes, while raising a large family. Long but deftly acted, pleasantly done comedy drama. *** "

The Warner Bros Story note:

"1945: "MILDRED PIERCE", "CHRIST-MAS IN CONNECTICUT", "PRIDE OF THE MARINES", "GOD IS MY CO-PILOT", "OBJECTIVE BURMA", "TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT", "THE CORN IS GREEN" and

"ROUGHLY SPEAKING" were among the company's 19 feature releases that helped it to show a net profit of \$9,901,563 for the year, a healthy improvement on the previous year..."

" "ROUGHLY SPEAKING" covered forty years in the life of Louise Randall Pierson, a delightful eccentric who pre-empted Women's Lib by over a quarter of a century. Starting in 1902, when Louise was twelve, and ending during World War II, the screenplay - written by Louise Randall Pierson herself - took viewers on an episodic journey involving the authoress' determination to overcome poverty, a bad first marriage (the second was more successful) and the problems inherent in bringing up five children. Rosalind Russell was Louise, Jack Carson was Harold Pierson. Also cast were Alan Hale, Robert Hutton, Andrea King, Ann Doran, Craig Stevens and Donald Woods. The producer was Henry Blanke, and it was directed by Michael Curtiz, now making an average of two films a year for the studio."

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "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. It's not known who played Pierson at age 12. Rosalind Russell would later portray another "*delightful eccentric who pre-empted Women's Lib by over a quarter of a century*" in "**AUNTIE MAME**" (58). The shortcomings of the paterfamilias has always been a staple of the light domestic comedy, even though it found its apotheosis perhaps with W.C. Fields. See "**LIFE WITH FATHER**" (William Powell), "**HOUSEBOAT**" (Cary Grant) and "**CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN**" (Clifton Webb), to name but three.

Johnny Calkins was aged about 10, seen also in "**THE SULLIVANS**" (44), "**LIFE WITH FATHER**" (47) and "**THE BOY WITH GREEN HAIR**" (48). Mickey Kuhn was about 14, his films including "**BAD LITTLE ANGEL**" (39), "**DICK TRACY**" (45) and "**A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN**" (45). Sheffield also was 14, and we all know what his screen pedigree was, although only one of his first six films was a **Tarzan**. To see more of Boy without his loincloth (in the best possible sense) refer to "**LITTLE ORVIE**", "**KNUTE ROCKNE, ALL AMERICAN**" or "**LUCKY CISCO KID**", all of which he made in 1940.

See subject index under **AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL TITLES** and **COMEDY**.