

The Runaway Knock

UK : 1898 : dir. G. A. Smith : G.A.S. Films
 prod: G. A. Smith : scr: : dir.ph.:

Silent : 50 sec

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Cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5708	0.5	1	0	340	-	-	-	-	-	No	unseen

The British Film Catalogue 1895-1985 listing:

“Comedy. Old gentleman knocks on door for boy and gets doused.”

[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", "Bloomsbury Foreign Film Guide", "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. 1898 saw UK films first hit on the motif of the pranksome boy, and a fair cluster of one-scene jokes were made featuring either young scamps or else tramps and vagabonds – stealing bathers' clothes, chasing picnickers away, frightening couples on park benches, dousing policemen, etc. Several of them were straight remakes of that great-granddaddy of naughty boy films: “**L'ARROSEUR ARROSÉ**” (1895). This particular title was itself remade (or pinched, let's be honest) the same year by the Riley Brothers, in “**THE RUNAWAY KNOCK AND THE SUFFERING MILKMAN**”, using *two* boys. The spank opera had arrived in Britain, and the people did feast on the tree sloth and the elderberry and the trenchers of quince...

Denis Gifford's *British Film Catalogue* is a staggering work of research, listing virtually every live action film shot in the UK over the first ninety years of the cinema, but uniquely valuable for information on these earliest silent pieces, the great majority of which we must assume to be lost.

See subject index under **COMEDY, RASCALS & SCALAWAGS** and [SILENT CINEMA](#).