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Runaway Railway

UK : 1965 : dir. Jan Darnley-Smith : Fanfare / Children's Film Foundation : 55 min
prod: George H Brown : scr: Michael Barnes : dir.ph.:
[John Moulder-Brown](#); [Kevin Bennett](#); [Leonard Brockwell](#); [Roberta Tovey](#)
Ronnie Barker; Graham Starr; Jon Pertwee; Hugh Lloyd; Roger Avon; Sidney Tafler

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω □ ∅ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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A nicely composed shot

Source: indeterminate

Children's Film Foundation catalogue and index of films (1972) listing:

"Young railway enthusiasts repair a derelict locomotive and find themselves inadvertently involved in a mail train robbery. Produced by Fanfare Films Ltd. Script by Michael Barnes. Producer: George H Brown."

The Moving Picture Boy entry on John Moulder-Brown:

"In his early years John was the schoolboy equivalent of an English Rose: huge, pale blue eyes blinked demurely through a fringe of fair hair, and he couldn't, you'd think, have said boo to a goose. But he was more than just a

pretty face, and when he graduated from modelling to acting, and gained in experience and confidence, a touch of scornful pride crept in which made him less sweet and more complicated. Most often, though, he was cast in sincere, sympathetic roles which didn't call for huge displays of temperament - and got abundant work as a child, including several leads with the Children's Film Foundation. In the 1969 co-production of **"THE BOYS OF PAUL STREET"** - a remake of the classic Molnar story, filmed in 1934 as **"NO GREATER GLORY"** - Moulder-Brown was too mature for the leading role, which was taken this time by Anthony Kemp.

However, instead of faltering and fading like the careers of so many well-favoured children, Moulder-Brown's now blossomed. Jerzy Skolimowski gave him two starring roles: as the young swimming pool attendant in **"DEEP END"** (E Germany/US 70), fatally obsessed with Jane Asher, and as the enterprising nephew of David Niven and Gina Lollobrigida in **"HERZBUBE"** (W Germany/US 72 - "Sex, Love and Murder"), a delightful adaptation of Nabokov's "King, Queen, Knave".

He played another love-sick adolescent in **"ERSTE LIEBE"** (E Germany/ Switzerland/ Hungary 71), based on a Turgenev story. Robert Young's **"VAMPIRE CIRCUS"** (71) proved less nourishing than the smaller part of Prince Otto, unhappy younger brother of the

Wagner-crazy King of Bavaria, in Visconti's **"LUDWIG"** (Italy/France/W Germany 72). He looked suitably sheepish in the appalling **"CONFESSIONS FROM THE DAVID GALAXY AFFAIR"** (78), but had another prestige lead as Thomas Mann's charming twister in the TV film **"BEKENNTNISSE DES HOCHSTAPLERS FELIX KRULL"** (W Germany 81)... John Moulder-Brown had further leading roles in **"THE GRASS IS SINGING"** (Zambia/Sweden 81), **"ELLIS ISLAND"** (84) and **"KILLING HEAT"** (US 84)."

[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"]



The kids have a surprise up their sleeve for the town go-kart race.. Roberta Tovey left, John Moulder-Brown far right
Source: CFF catalogue & index of films 1972

No further information currently available. Not to be confused with the 1985 "existential action movie" "**RUNAWAY TRAIN**", with Jon Voight. As with 95% of the output of the Children's Film Foundation, and despite a superabundance of adult faces familiar from TV, you will not find this title listed even in British film guides. One would hope that the presence of comedy stalwarts Ronnie Barker and Hugh Lloyd, and later-"**Dr Who**" Jon Pertwee, promises a quality of playing from the adult characters a notch above the traditional low standards of British children's films. It seemed axiomatic to their directors that children like to watch adults mugging and over-acting in a way they would shame to do for television.

The later Australian children's TV serial "**Come Midnight Monday**" also concerned a group of kids restoring a steam locomotive, while trains or train journeys have featured prominently in numerous archive entries beyond the obvious "**THE RAILWAY CHILDREN**" (of which three TV serials preceded the Lionel Jeffries feature version).

Moulder-Brown was 12, a regular in CFF productions - "**THE MISSING NOTE**" (61), "**GO KART GO!**" (63, with Dennis Waterman), "**BEWARE OF THE DOG**" (64, a serial), "**OPERATION THIRD FORM**" (66), "**CALAMITY THE COW**" (67) - and made 18 other features by the age of fifteen, among them, while we're on the subject, "**NIGHT TRAIN TO INVERNESS**" (59, again with Dennis Waterman), before "**DEEP END**" in 1970 promoted him to the rank of turbulent adolescent.

Kevin Bennett also appeared in CFF's "**I'VE GOTTA HORSE**" (65) and "**OPERATION THIRD FORM**" (66), while Leonard Brockwell (10) was seen in "**HEAVENS ABOVE!**" (63), "**DARLING**" (65), "**THE HEROES OF TELEMAR**" (65, with Moulder-Brown) and "**S.W.A.L.K.**" (70) among others. Roberta Tovey (here as Carole) played granddaughter Susan in the miserable big-screen spinoff "**DR. WHO AND THE DALEKS**" (65), was in "**NEVER LET GO**" (60), "**A HIGH WIND IN JAMAICA**" (65) and "**OPERATION THIRD FORM**", beside much TV work.

See subject index under **TRAINS & RAILWAYS**, **CHILDREN'S FILM FOUNDATION** and - but of course - **KIDS OUTWIT THE CROOKS**.