

Sans Famille

("Without Family")

France : 1925 : dir.

Silent : ? min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

[Lewis \(Leslie\) Shaw](#); [Roby Guichard](#)

Adult cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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The Moving Picture Boy entry on Lewis Shaw:

"His father was a schoolmaster and lecturer, and Lewis had no dramatic training before he was chosen to appear in A.A. Milne's play "Success at the Haymarket Theatre, London in June 1923. His father's career then took him to France for a couple of years, during which he was chosen for leading parts in films directed by Louis Mercanton and Georges Monca. In Mercanton's "LES DEUX GOSSES" he not only acted opposite France's leading boy actor of the period, Jean Forest, but with the director's tiny son Jean Mercanton, who in his turn was to become a popular screen performer. (Lewis was professionally known in France as "Leslie Shaw" because the French could not decide whether to pronounce him "Louis" or "LÇviss" .) It was a considerable honour for an English boy to be chosen to portray RÇmi, hero of Hector Malot's oft-filmed "SANS FAMILLE", the saga of a foundling's travels with an itinerant entertainer and his performing dogs.

Having returned home, Lewis Shaw worked a good deal on the London stage, and in 1929-30 toured Australia and New Zealand in "Young Woodley" and "Journey's End". He continued to act in British films, as a whimsical and charming juvenile lead of the Thirties. After distinguished service in World War Two, however, he retired, joining the management of the casting directory "Spotlight". In later life he and his wife Betty lived mainly on an Italian island, but he was just starting to resume his acting career - superb cameos on British TV - when his final illness was diagnosed. "

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Guichard:

"Until his locks were shorn in 1925 - to play an English boy in "LA FLAMME" - blue-eyed Robert was able to portray handsome girls, as he did when playing the heroine as a child in "LE COMTE KOSTIA". (It was no fun, he said, being brutalised by Conrad Veidt; he carried the bruises for three weeks.) Roby made his screen debut in "MON P'TIT", and in "LES VACANCES" co-starred with two of France's best little girls, Olinda Mano and Bouboule. He spoke appreciatively of them both, and of Yvette Langlais, his junior partner in "L'ABBÉ CONSTANTIN". Clearly he was something of a ladies' man. More porten-tously, he was also the immature prophet Elijah in "LA TERRE PROMISE". Reviewing Robi's "TITI" in 1926, the critic of Cinéa praised his "magnificent ease, authority, wit and sensitivity" - not bad for a 13-year old."

[no listing in "Classics of the Silent Screen", "A Pictorial History of the Silent Cinema", "Silent Movies - a Picture Quiz Book", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie" or "The Time Out Film Guide"]

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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. Holmstrom's book is the bible on these early boy players, and the research which must have gone into it is phenomenal. Shaw was 15, having made the serial "LES DEUX GOSSES" ("The Two Kids") the year before. In 1925 he also made "CONFESSIONS" back in the UK. Guichard was 11 - a sort of diminutive Lilian Gish - and his other films included "LE NOEL DU PERE LATHUILLE" ('22), "LES MYSTERES DE PARIS" ('22), "TITI PREMIER, ROI DES GOSSES" ("Tití the First, King of Kids", '26) and "ARMES D'ENFANTS" ("Children's Souls", '27)

"SANS FAMILLE" was first filmed in Belgium in 1912, and was remade in 1934, 1944 and 1957. There was also a Japanese animated version: "CHIBBIKO REMI TO MEIKEN CAPI" (1970), a 1985 American animated version, "NOBODY'S BOY", and a TV cartoon series.

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