

The Sea Urchin

UK : 1926 : dir. Graham Cutts : Gainsborough
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

Silent : 82 min

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 Betty Balfour

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Kbytes	Ω □ € Z ⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Woman as ersatz cabin boy

Source: NFT Bulletin Oct/Nov 94

NFT Film Bulletin - Oct/Nov 94 - review:

"A polished early Gainsborough production that takes Betty Balfour through some varied locations in a bright story zipping from the Paris cabaret to Cornwall, and from light romance to full melodrama. A typical happy-sad starring role for Balfour and a fine example of the neglected Graham Cutts' astute direction. (Plus a sequence from what survives of the film that saw Betty Balfour's debut and rapid stardom, "NOTHING ELSE MATTERS".

[no listing in "Classics of the Silent Screen", "Hollywood in the Twenties", "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", "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"]

No further information currently available. Included here merely as an amusing instance of the "pseudoboy" phenomenon in cinema – grown women masquerading not very convincingly as adolescent boys, finally exacting their revenge for centuries of boys performing women's roles in the theatre. Comedienne Betty Balfour (also of "THE BRAT", '30) was 23.

See "THE YANKEE CLIPPER" for the real McCoy, and subject index under **SEAFARING / PIRACY, SILENT CINEMA** and **WOMEN AS BOYS / GIRLS AS BOYS**.