

Something Always Happens

UK : 1934 : dir. : ? min
prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Johnny Singer](#)
Ian Hunter

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω	□	€	Z	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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A bug on the line – information is power, as every bellboy knows

Source: The Moving Picture Boy

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"Johnny Singer's was a ubiquitous face in British films of the Thirties: often the cheeky office junior or bossy little page-boy who would get quick laughs when the plot was flagging. In **"TUDOR ROSE"** he has a split-second appearance on the edge of a crowd. He does nothing but throw his cap in the air and shout "Long live the Queen!" - but nearly every 1936 filmgoer in Britain would have recognised him with affection.

Sometimes, though - as in **"MY OLD DUTCH"**, **"SOMETHING ALWAYS HAPPENS"** or **"THIS GREEN HELL"** - he had a real leading role and grabbed it.

Johnny's first recorded public appearance was in miniature white tie and tails, winning a fancy dress competition and then conducting a brass band near Northampton. Two years later, he was billed at a Gala Novelty Dance in London as "Little John Singer of Kine-Variety and Talking Picture Fame, direct from the Criterion Restaurant... the World's Youngest Cabaret Star". He danced, he sang, he did impressions. He was also a famously quick learner of lines.

By the mid-Thirties he was regularly described as "the British Mickey Rooney", and in January 1940 he and Celia Lipton re-enacted the Rooney and Garland roles in a radio version of **"BABES IN ARMS"**. They also



Johnny Singer buttonholes Ian Hunter

Source: The Moving Picture Boy

sang with the Henry Hall Band. By this time Johnny had appeared in about 100 films.

He continued to act, sometimes with the little Mancunian film company – taking the romantic lead in 1942 in "SOMEWHERE IN CAMP". He was a sailor in "IN WHICH WE SERVE" (42) and in "THE CRUEL SEA" (53). But five years of war had intervened, in which – as a soldier – John Singer had taken part in the Allied invasion of Europe, done duty in Palestine, and been demobbed in 1947 with the rank of Captain.

It wasn't easy to build an acting career again, and in due course he turned to script-writing, notably (in partnership with John Warren) for the TV comedian Dick Emery, who also starred in the spin-off film "OOH – YOU ARE

AWFUL" (72). After Warren's death, Singer's son Steven became his co-writer."

[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"]

No further information currently available. Doubtless the storyline was far less amusing than these stills suggest. Singer was 11 – rather young, surely, for a hotel pageboy even in the 1930s – the same year that he made "MY OLD DUTCH".

See subject index under **WORKING BOYS / WORKING GIRLS**.

