

Tom Brown's Schooldays

UK : 1916 : dir. Rex Wilson : Windsor
prod: : scr: Rex Wilson : dir.ph.:

Silent : 95 min

Jack Coleman; Eric Barker

Joyce Templeton; Jack Hobbs; Evelyn Boucher; Wilfred Benson; Mr Daniels; Mr Johnson;
Laurie Leslie; C. Arundell; Mona Damt; Rolf Leslie; Miss Marley; H. Dobell; Mr Morley

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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The British Film Catalogue 1895-1985
listing:

"Drama. 1834. Squire's mischievous son becomes boarder at Rugby. (Royal Command Performance, Feb 24th 1914)"

Excerpt from **The Good Film and Video Guide** review of the 1951 version:

"Thomas Hughes' 1857 novel is the best known of public school stories and had been filmed twice before, in Britain in 1917 and by RKO in Hollywood in 1940, with Freddie Bartholomew and Cedric Hardwicke. Hughes admired Dr Arnold of Rugby and would probably have approved of Robert Newton's restrained performance in that role..."

[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", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film 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"]

Cast:

Tom BrownJoyce Templeton
" " "**Jack Coleman**
" " "**Jack Hobbs**
Cynthia BrownEvelyn Boucher
Dr ArnoldWilfred Benson
Squire BrownMr Daniels
Harry EastMr Johnson
FlashmanLaurie Leslie
WheelwrightC. Arundell
Darne BrownMona Damt
Arthur**Eric Barker**
Jacob DoodlecalfRolf Leslie
Mrs ArnoldMiss Marley
BenjyH. Dobell
TadpoleMr Morley
Stogger WilliamsMr Canielli

No further information currently available. I'd no idea Royal Command film performances were instituted this early. Equally surprising is its length (only 1 minute shorter than the 1951 version) – I had no idea films of over 90 minutes were being made in 1916. (Calculated from the given footage of 5700ft at roughly one foot per second.)

What's more, you get **three** Tom Brown's for your money (one of them female, to cover all contingencies). The hero doesn't age substantially in the story (most of which takes place in the space of a year), so I'm curious why this was necessary.

Regrettably these are the only references to it so far encountered, the first of just three film versions to date of this boys' classic, although comparable boarding school tales of the same period setting have appeared from other countries (eg: "**CHERNAYA KURITSA, ILI PODZEMNIYE ZHITELI**"). The only supplementary information *The Moving Picture Boy* provides on Barker is that he went on to appear in "**DADDY**" (17 – not the Jackie Coogan film of the same title), "**NELSON**" (18), "**HIS DEAREST POSSESSION**" (19), "**SHEBA**" (19) and "**THE TOILERS**" (19). No flash in the pan he then.

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