

Treasure Island

US : 1920 : dir. Maurice Tourneur
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.: René Guissart

Silent : ? min

.....
 Charles Ogle; Lon Chaney; Shirley Mason

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω □ ☞ Z ☼	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
3467a	2½	3	5	1000	7 - - - -	No	Unseen



No sound – just careful shot composition, atmospheric lighting

Source: Sight & Sound

Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion note:

“Robert L. Stevenson's adventure classic for boys was filmed three times by American companies. In 1920 Charles Ogle was Long John and Jim Hawkins was played by a girl - Shirley Mason. Maurice Tourneur directed...”

Source unknown:

“Maurice Tourneur [*pictured above*], with Shirley Mason, on the set of "**TREASURE ISLAND**" (1920). Tourneur, who arrived in America in 1914, was a pioneer of pictorialism. With his great art director Ben Carré, and his equally brilliant cameraman, John van den Broek, he directed a group of pictures which, by their sheer beauty, created new standards for the industry. Later masters of the craft, like Rex Ingram and Josef von

Sternberg, were profoundly influenced by



Tourneur... ”

Lon Chaney, Maurice Tourneur and Shirley Mason
Source: *A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen*

Excerpt from reader's letter to **Sight & Sound**
- Autumn '61:

"Sir, - During a visit to the United States last March I had the opportunity of seeing two films of Maurice Tourneur at Eastman House Film Archive which confirmed previous ideas of his importance as a film-maker. His death on August 4th marks the passing of one of the great pictorialists of the screen, an artist unremittingly devoted to the medium he chose above all others (at one time he was apprenticed to Rodin and Puvis de Chavannes) and boldly independent in statement and practice.

He was already a director in France before World War One, and one has only to look at "**THE WISHING RING**" (1914) to realise the refinement which he brought to American films. The range of his subject matter was varied, but he had a predilection for British literature and the English scene (he had been an actor with Réjane's company in London). He was the first to bring Conrad to the screen in "**VICTORY**" (1919). Other films which reflected this interest were "**PRUNELLA**" (1918), "**TREASURE ISLAND**" (1920) and "**LORNA DOONE**" (1922). In 1923 he came to England and shot Hall Caine's "**THE CHRISTIAN**" on location in London and the Isle of Man... ”

- Liam O'Laoghaire

[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 1996", "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"]

Blind Pew delivers the black spot

Source: *A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen*





Sour apples? Mason gives director Tourneur a testy eye

Source: Sight & Sound

No further information currently available. Director Maurice Tourneur, father of the equally talented director Jacques Tourneur, also made "**POOR LITTLE RICH GIRL**" and "**BLUE BIRD**" ('18). The composition of that cave shot overleaf is particularly striking, and it would certainly be interesting to see the great grotesque of silent cinema, Lon Chaney, in this film, but doubtless no complete copy survives.

In this third version of the story to be filmed within the decade, cross-dressing Ms Mason was a mere lad of 20 (real name Leona Flugrath). Her film career started at 15 with "**VANITY FAIR**". To give the actress her due, from the stills shown she by no means looks the most improbable of screen Jim Hawkins's, but with no shortage of talented boy actors working in the cinema by this time there was no real need to cast a woman in the part. Indeed, a very epicene cabin boy she makes – ah, but those were more innocent times (so they say).

See **TREASURE ISLAND - GENERAL NOTE**, and subject index under **HISTORY, KIDS OUTWIT THE CROOKS, SEAFARING / PIRACY, SILENT CINEMA, TREASURE HUNTS** and **WOMEN AS BOYS / GIRLS AS BOYS**.