

Two Naughty Boys Upsetting the Spoons

UK : 1898 : dir. James Williamson :

Silent : 75 sec

prod: James Williamson : scr: James Williamson : dir.ph.:

[Alan Williamson; Colin Williamson](#)

Adult cast unknown

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

“Boys’ joke on their aunt’s suitor causes him to fall.”

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Williamson (1886-1952):

“James Williamson, a pioneer of British cinema, produced and directed films in Brighton between 1897 and 1909 (after which he devoted himself exclusively to the manufacture and merchandising of film and photographic materials and equipment). He soon began to evolve his own grammar of movie-making, and his **"FIRE!"** of 1901, for instance, depends largely on cross-cutting for its tension. In 1902 he sold his chemist’s shop and started full-time production at the Wilbury studios.

His sons Alan, Tom, Stuart and Colin became Britain’s first juvenile "household faces". In the **"TWO NAUGHTY BOYS"** films, Alan’s co-star was kid brother Colin – and it needs pointing out that the "spoons" in question were not items of cutlery but young people engaged in "spooning" or making love. The titles make exhaustingly clear the pranksomeness of this strand of early cinema.”

[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", "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. It was followed in swift order by **"TWO NAUGHTY BOYS SPRINKLING THE SPOONS"** and **"TWO NAUGHTY BOYS TEASING THE COBBLER"**. Not content with such villainy, [Alan Williamson](#) returned in 1901 with **"TEASING GRANDPA"** and **"THOSE TROUBLESOME BOYS"**. He was 12 in 1898, the earliest named boy actor in British cinema. The theme of children torpedoing adult romance – especially of their parents and elder siblings – became a long-time favourite, but in the earliest years the motif was simple puckishness for its own sake, either with boys (hurrah!) or frisky tramps, vagabonds and such. Eleven years later, in 1909, Williamson revamped the idea as a chase comedy in **"TWO NAUGHTY BOYS"**, using another brace of sons – Stuart and Tom.

See subject index under [ALL IN THE FAMILY](#), COMEDY, MATCHMAKERS / MATCHBREAKERS, [RASCALS & SCALAWAGS](#) (for later naughty boys) and [SILENT CINEMA](#).