

SUBJECT INDEX:

FATHER'S SONS

See also: SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS

Devoted sons and their adoring fathers have long been a sentimental expression of America's cult of boyhood, to a large extent displaced in recent decades by the cult of "abuse", by which fathers, where they are present in the home at all, are more commonly oppressors or *prima facie* incest culprits. The kind of masculine camaraderie so celebrated in the titles below has now been compartmentalised into "father & son bonding weekends" - where dad is packed off to camp along with the kids.

See SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS for equally intense man/boy friendships with no blood link whatever, which have also largely been discarded now in a culture which brands the adult male as inherently suspect.

Apa	Hungary 1966 : "Father". Boy (<i>Dani Erdelyi</i>) idolises his father who died heroically in WW2, only to learn as he becomes a young adult that his father was not quite such a paragon. Clearly allegorical film in which youth reappraises the values of the previous generation.
The Champ	US 1931 : Founder of a new cinema prototype - the washed-up father (ex-prizefighter Wallace Beery) idolised by his young son (<i>Jackie Cooper</i>) who attempts a comeback to recover his self-respect, and dies in the process. The Beery/Cooper teaming was a great success with the public (less so with Beery, who preferred being teamed with blousy blondes of the opposite sex), and prompted a long series of thinly-dsguised remakes, not least "THE MIGHTY McGURK", teaming an even older Beery with new child star Dean Stockwell.
The Champ	US 1979 : Glossy but unsuccessful remake of the above with Jon Voigt, Faye Dunaway and <i>Ricky Schroder</i> . Critics judged Voigt just too intelligent an actor to convince as a punchy has-been boxer, but Schroder's boyhood star career was launched on the back of it.
The Clown	
Daddy's Boy and Mammy	US 1911 : Starring <i>Kenneth Casey</i> , 12. No further details available.
The Last Don	US TV 3x mini-serial : Another Mario Puzo Mafia epic, stirring in choppings from "Romeo and Juliet" and "Cain and Abel". The drama pivots on two sons, one "good", one "bad".
The Mighty McGurk	
Over the Top	
Under My Skin	
Uz Zase Skacu Pres Kaluze	Czechoslovakia 1970 : "I'm Jumping Over Puddles Again" Sentimental Karel Kachyna film of a boy (<i>Vladimir Dlouhy</i>) surmounting a crippling bout of polio to achieve his horseriding dreams. The relationship between the boy and his father is unusually affectionate.
The Yearling	
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Non-fiction