

SUBJECT INDEX:

HISTORY

(to 1900)

This index catalogues every entry in the archive with a setting prior to 1900, and makes no distinction between fiction and non-fictional subjects, on the recognition that screenwriters habitually distort past events and cultural norms to suit dramatic, political or other considerations – it is **all** fiction. Fantasy subjects are only included where these can be located to a specific historical period (however distorted) – the Garden of Eden would thus be excluded, whereas the story of Joseph or Moses would not. The list is in reverse chronological order.

NB: although the vast majority of Western films and series are clearly set in the 19th century, these are not included here, even where it is possible to date them accurately from historical events such as the Civil War. They represent a distinct genre in themselves, so see under [WESTERNS](#) for these. Occasional titles such as "THE BOWERY", set in 1890s New York, cannot in any sense be thought of as Westerns, and are included here.

For incidental interest, a separate subject index has been compiled listing every known child ruler or monarch in (predominantly – but not exclusively – European) history. See under **BOY KINGS / GIRL QUEENS** for these.

Beyond the more obvious period dramas, science fiction perpetually revisits the past in the form of time travel. Television series such as "**Dr Who**", "**The Time Tunnel**", "**Voyagers!**" and "**Quantum Leap**", of their nature visited a plethora of historical settings, but rarely gave more than scant attention to period accuracy. "**Dr Who**" and "**Voyagers!**", in particular, set out very purposefully to convey potted history lessons within the constraints of their family adventure remit, but the definition of history all such series share is one confined to a shortlist of household names and events, as though one could scarcely travel back to ancient Rome without tripping over Julius Caesar. Time travel children's serials, what's more, are legion.

The 1971 LWT series "**Jamie**" employed the hackneyed device of a magic carpet to whisk our hero (13) back to suitably interesting dates from some beginners' guide to the past. In "**Time Riders**" it was a motorbike, in "**BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE**" a phone booth, in "**Dr Who**" a malfunctioned shape-shifting device stuck in the appearance of a police call-box, and in the "**BACK TO THE FUTURE**" trilogy an extinct DeLorean status car. The man-and-boy team of "**Voyagers!**" merely materialised in mid-air ten feet above ground wherever they went – time travel by battered coxyx...

See also subject index under **SILENT CINEMA** – the first 100 films or so having been made before 1901

19th Century

1890's

L'Albero Degli Zoccoli

Italy 1978: "The Tree of Wooden Clogs" – Palme d'Or-winning epic study of late 19th century Lombardy peasant life. Short on incident, long on observation of the detail of farming life for three impoverished families. A father cuts down the landlord's tree to make shoes for his small son to wear to school, and is dismissed on the spot. With [Omar Brignoli](#).

Bad Little Angel
The Bowery

1934: Two feuding New York saloon-owners reconciled by a street urchin who takes both of them under his wing. Climax is Steve Brodie's famous daredevil dive off the Brooklyn bridge for a bet. With [Jackie Cooper](#).

Cuore
How Green Was My Valley

Italian TV serial

US 1941 : Based on John Llewellyn's bestselling account of his boyhood in a Rhonda Valley mining village. With [Roddy McDowall](#).

Lyutyi
The Mighty McGurk
Mother Carey's Chickens
My Son, My Son!
Pelle Erobreren

Kazakhstan

Puika
Rasputin
Young Chaplin

Latvia

UK ch TV serial: The London boyhood of Chaplin (b.1889)

1893

1880s

Le Juge et L'Assassin
Little Lord Fauntleroy
Little Lord Fauntleroy
Little Lord Fauntleroy
Little Lord Fauntleroy
Little Lord Fauntleroy
Little Lord Fauntleroy
Black Beauty
Black Beauty ['71]
The Adventures of Black Beauty (TV serial '72)
Tom Alone(Canada)
Tom's Midnight Garden

France

US 1921

US 1936

UK TV 1956

UK TV serial 1976

US TV 1980

UK TV serial 1994

1946

Tom's Midnight Garden

UK TV serial c1990 : [Jeremy Rampling](#) as a boy of the 1930s or 50s staying in an old house with his aunt and uncle. When the clock strikes thirteen, he discovers a doorway into the past, and a huge garden where he meets an unwanted child of the house.

UK 1998 : [Anthony Way](#) and [Florence Hoath](#) in a feature remake of the above.

1887

Down to the Sea in Ships

1885

Kim

1950

Kim

TV '84

1862

Dreamchild

1860

The Man From Nowhere

1857

El Cabezota

Spain

1854

Golden Pennies

Australian gold rush

Glasblåsarens Barn

1850

The Castaway Cowboy

1840

The Little Minister

US 1934 : J.M. Barrie romantic whimsy about scandalous affair between a minister and a gypsy girl/aristocrat's daughter. With [Billy Watson](#)

1834

Tom Brown's Schooldays

UK 1916

1834

Tom Brown's School Days

US 1940

1834

Tom Brown's Schooldays

UK 1951

1834

Tom Brown's Schooldays

UK TV serial

1830-

The Boy and the Convict

c1822	Great Expectations	UK TV serial
c1818	Dickens of London	
waifs	The Amazing Mr Blunden	UK 1972 : Two Edwardian children meet a friendly old ghost and two from beyond the grave, and travel back in time to right an old wrong. With Garry Miller , Lynne Frederick , Marc Granger , Rosalyn Landor
1808	La Leyenda del Tambor	Spain / Mexico 1981 : "Legend of the Drummer Boy". During the Spanish War of Independence a drummer boy (Jorge Sanz) drives off Napoleonic troops single-handedly.

Unspecified Victorian era settings:

The Adventures of Black Beauty	UK TV series 1972: with Stacy Dorning
Un Bon Petit Diable	1983 (?)
Boy Dominic	UK TV serial 1970s, with Murray Dale
Captain Stirrick	
A Christmas Carol	TV 1954
David Copperfield	US 1911: (Thanhouser) with Leland Benham
David Copperfield	UK 1913 : The first British 9-reel feature (125 min) with Eric Desmond as young David, and Edna May as Little Emily
David Copperfield	UK TV serial 1974: with Jonathan Kahn
Detstvo Gorkovo	USSR 1938: "The Childhood of Maxim Gorki"
Dickens' London	UK: early silent documentary touring the locations and characters of Dickens' works.
Dotheboys Hall	
Ford Startime -	
"The Turn of the Screw"	US TV play
Die Geheimnisse von London	Germany / Austria
How We Used to Live	UK schools TV series
Hungry Hill	UK 1947
Landmarks -	
"Victorian Children"	Schools TV series
Little Lord Fauntleroy	[TV 56]
Little Nell	France 1912
Los Naufragos del Liguria	
Mr Bumble the Beadle	UK 1898: Earliest film fragment from a Dickens novel
Nonni i Manni	Iceland ch TV serial
Oliver Twist	[versions in 1909, 1909, 1912, 1912, 1916, 1922, 1933, 1940, 1948, 1982]
Le Pain Noir	France TV serial 1975 (rural families in late 19 th century)
The Return of the Antelope	ch TV serial)
Scrooge, or: Marley's Ghost	UK 1901:
Smikey	
Tad	
The Treasure Seekers	UK TV
Twist Oliver	Hungary
Vice Versa (47)	
Vincent and Me	
V Lyudyakh	USSR 1938 (2 nd part of Donstov's Maxim Gorki trilogy)
Where Adam Stood	UK TV play
The Young Visitors	

18th Century:

???	Mozart: Aufzeichnungen einer Jugend	
c1790s	L'Enfant Sauvage	
	H.M.S. Defiant	[Napoleonic Wars]
	Time Bandits	[Napoleonic Wars]
1790	Midshipman Easy	
1789	Children of Liberty	[French Revolution]
	The Scarlet Pimpernel	
c1789	Dangerous Exile	[French Revolution]
c1770s	The Adventures of Long John Silver	
	April Morning	
	Across Five Aprils	[American Civil War]
	DuPont Show of the Month – R.L. Stevenson	
	General Spanky	[American Civil War]
	Lloyd's of London	
	Long John Silver	
	Treasure Island	(12, 17, '20, 34, 50, 68 TV ser, '71, 70s TV ser, 90)
1770	Moonfleet	
1750	Black Jack	
1725 - 1743	Infanzia, Vocazione e Prime Esperienze de Giacomo Casanova, Veneziano	
	Italy 1969: "Childhood, Vocation and First Experiences of Giacomo Casanova, Venetian" – Biopic of the early life of famous 18 th century libertine, who rejects the church and marriage to embrace a life of sexual indulgence. With <i>Claudio de Kunert</i> .	
Napoleonic	Swiss Family Robinson	1940
	Swiss Family Robinson	US TV play 1958
	Swiss Family Robinson	1960
	The Swiss Family Robinson	US TV 1975
	The Swiss Family Robinson	US TV series, 1975
	Time Bandits	
???	Mamlyuk	
putative 18 th	Death in the Seine	UK? 1989 : Peter Greenaway short on two 18 th century Paris anatomists who made a study of the corpses dredged from the Seine, many of them children.
	The Gold Bug	
	The Little Convict	
	The Strange Case of the Disappearance of Adelaide Harris	
	Tom Sawyer	US 1917 : Jack Pickford (20) playing Twain's archetypal boyhood rascal.
	The Whipping Boy	US TV 1994: In the fictitious kingdom of "Brattenburg"

17th Century:

1698	Ikingut	Iceland 2000 : Stranded eskimo boy arrives on an iceberg in 17th century Iceland, only to be viewed by the locals as an invading evil spirit.
???	Blood on Satan's Claw	
	My Friend Walter	
	Time Riders	[English Civil War]

16th Century:

???	Black Adder II: "Bells"	[Elizabeth I]
1547	Crossed Swords	[Henry VIII]
1547	The Prince and the Pauper	09, '15, '23, '37, '62
1547	The Prince and the Pauper	TV serials '75, '96
1547	Prinz und Bettelknabe	
1503	El Lazarillo de Tormes	Spain 1925
1503	El Lazarillo de Tormes	Spain 1959

15th Century:

1492	Christopher Columbus	
1415	Henry V (Branagh)	
???	Historja Zóltek Cizemki	

14th Century:

1327	The Name of the Rose	
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13th Century:

???	Gates to Paradise	[the children's crusade]
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12th Century:

The Flame and the Arrow	[set in Italy]
Lionheart: The Children's Crusade	[Richard II]
The Bandit of Sherwood Forest	[King John]
The Princes in the Tower (1914)	
Macbeth (1916)	
Robin Hood Jr	[Richard I]
Time Bandits	[Richard I]

Dark Ages:

AD 750	The Feathered Serpent	ch TV serial	[Toltec Mexico]
???	Boy Merlin	ch TV serial	
???	Merlin of the Crystal Cave	ch TV serial	

Imperial Rome:

?	?	?	Titus	[Titus Andronicus – but in a fantasy setting part imperial Rome part modern-day]
AD 79			The Last Days of Pompeii	[Nero – but dragging in the life of Christ]
			Satyricon	[Nero]
			Fellini-Satyricon	[Nero]
AD 0			Amahl and the Night Visitors	[Tiberius]

Classical Greece:

Sex B.C. – “The Greeks”

Heroic Greece:

?	?	?	Das Goldene Ding	[W German TV - The Golden Fleece]
			Mikres Afrodites	
?	?	?	Time Bandits	[Agamemnon]

Ancient Egypt:

Who Killed Tutankhamun?

Prehistory:

Clan of the Cave Bear	[Palaeolithic]
Cesta do Praveku	[Ice Age/Cretaceous/Devonian]

Period unknown:

L’Agonie des Aigles (22)	[Paul Rauzéna plays “le Roi de Rome”]
The Flying Sorceror	[= "mediaeval times"]
The Adventures of William Tell	ch TV series
Avonturen van een Zigeunerjongen	
Chernaya Kuritsa ili Podzemniye Zhiteli	
Little Sir Nicholas	ch TV serial
More Winners	
El Pequeño Colonel	
Svirachat [?]	Pied Piper
The Torch	UK ch TV serial
Vrijbuiters van het Woud	
William Tell	UK c1901

Various historical period settings:

Angyali Udvozlet
Dr Who
Jamie [71]
Time Bandits
Voyagers!

~ 187 titles ~