

"Baby Doris" Baker

Titles: 2+ Sources: 1 Stills: 0

Born: US; 1908

The Child Stars entry:

"It is not surprising that a young nation should take youthful entertainers to its heart. From its earliest days, the screen reflected its environment by glorifying child stars, signaling those of stature by tailoring material to suit their needs and fashioning a publicity halo around their tiny heads. Baby Doris, born Doris Baker in 1908, had played the leading role in a wide array of film dramas by the time she was six. "Listen," she once said to a newspaperman, "my hair is real light. But Mama had a beautiful dark wig with long curls made for me. And when a director wants a little girl with light hair, I can play the part. And when a director wants a little girl with dark hair, I just say, 'Oh, well, but I got a wig.' And he hires me right away."

With the help of what her interviewer described as a "mighty alert mother-manager," Baby Doris played the little True Blue girl in "**THE HEART OF MARYLAND**", the lead in "**LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE**", and appeared in photoplays for a dozen other picture companies. Although it was said that constant association with grown-ups had not made her affected or unnatural, an editorial of the time mused: "One can't help wonder whether Baby Doris wouldn't be just a wee bit happier with a rag doll and a kitten than as the petted star of the 'canned film' world".

...Bright stars in their time, Baby Doris and Baby Helen are now largely forgotten, along with most of the other top-rated child performers of the silent era."

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
15	7	THE HEART OF MARYLAND	as "little True Blue girl"
18	10	LITTLE ORPHANT ANNIE <i>[sic]</i> with Ben Alexander, Billy (Paul) Jacobs	in title role