

# Sybil Jason

Titles: 11    Sources: 3    Stills: 23

Born: Capetown, South Africa; November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1929



*Winsome overload – Sybil Jason was the object of a very calculating campaign to rival the popularity of Fox's Shirley Temple. Child actors did not have script approval., and if many of her starring vehicles were limp, contrived affairs, this was no particular fault of hers. Source: CVMC website*



*Pensive – perhaps speculating on a career that might have been – in “THE LITTLE PRINCESS”*

Halliwell’s *Filmgoer’s Companion* entry:

“South African child actress of the thirties.”

**They Had Faces Then – Annabella to Zorina: the Superstars, Stars and Starlets of the 1930’s** entry:

“Hot on the heels of Shirley Temple came numerous child actresses, all hopefully box-office. Only Jane Withers came through. Warners’ entry was Sybil Jason, from South Africa, who sang, danced and did impersonations.

She seemed a trifle self-conscious (Shirley certainly never was that), but it is really impossible to judge on the basis of her series of bombs. These included her own initial starring vehicle, “**LITTLE BIG SHOT**”, and then some which pitted her against adult stars (Al Jolson, Kay Francis, Pat O’Brien).

Sybil completed the thirties – and her movie career – with supporting roles in two pictures starring Shirley Temple, still going strong (“**THE LITTLE PRINCESS**”, “**THE BLUE BIRD**”).”

**Those Endearing Young Charms** entry:

“Blue eyes and black hair. The little miss with the wistful Cockney accent was born to non-professional parents, although her uncle, Harry Jacobson, headed a very popular orchestra at the Savoy Hotel in London.

At the age of two Sybil was cracking out notes on the piano, and the following year she was seen doing impersonations of Maurice Chevalier at theatre performances. At five she was a singer, dancer, mimic

## FILMOGRAPHY

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Age</i> | <i>Title</i>  | <i>Role</i>       |
|-------------|------------|---|-------------------|
| 35          | 5          | BARNACLE BILL   | UK                |
| 35          |            | I FOUND STELLA PARRISH  |                   |
| 36          | 6          | LITTLE BIG SHOT   | UK, in title role |
| 36          |            | CHANGING OF THE GUARD   |                   |
| 36          |            | THE SINGING KID   | in title role     |
| 36          |            | <a href="#">THE CAPTAIN'S KID</a>  | in title role     |
| 37          | 7          | THE GREAT O'MALLEY  |                   |
| 38          | 8          | COMET OVER BROADWAY   |                   |
| 39          | 9          | THE LITTLE PRINCESS<br><i>with Shirley Temple</i>   |                   |
| 39          |            | WOMAN DOCTOR  |                   |
| 40          | 10         | <a href="#">THE BLUE BIRD</a><br><i>with Shirley Temple, Johnny Russell</i>   |                   |