

# Shirley Temple

Titles: 36    Sources: 5    Stills: 17+

Born: Santa Monica, California; April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1928



*Looking radiant. Her infant phenomenon years already behind her, Temple now has all the poise and assurance of any adult actress. The woman in the child is plainly visible.*



SHIRLEY TEMPLE - FOX FILM PLAYER

*Shirley tries very hard to melt that butter.*

Source: indeterminate website

**Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion entry:**

"American child star of the thirties, performing in short films at three; a genuine prodigy. Later appeared on TV in "**Shirley Temple Storybook**", and in the sixties went into local California politics. Won Special Academy Award 1934 "in grateful recognition of her outstanding contribution to screen entertainment"."

[ Halliwell gives her a special notation "for captivating the mass world audience and enabling it to forget the depression. And for "**CURLY TOP**". ]

**Those Endearing Young Charms entry:**

"Deep hazel eyes and golden brown hair. Shirley Temple had an innate sense of rhythm, a quality that enabled her to become the finest young dancer of her day. She started dancing at the age of two, when her mother enrolled her in a fancy dancing school in Los Angeles. Shirley had completed no less than three lessons when a film scout approached the family. He wanted to sign Shirley for a series of comedies entitled "**BABY BURLESKS**", which were to be spoofs of famous pictures such as "**WHAT PRICE GLORY**".

A number of agents who attended a preview of one of Shirley's performances urged Mrs Temple to take her daughter to Fox Films in order to win her a role in the studio's upcoming film, "**STAND UP AND CHEER**". Of 150 children tested for the part, Shirley was

victorious, earning herself a contract and a starting salary of \$150 a week.

Shirley's curly hair and dimples gave her a doll-like prettiness and because of this she was always cast in the role of the model child - ever bright and obedient. In addition to her natural acting talent and photogenic memory [sic], Shirley was well gifted in song and dance, demonstrating this perfectly in such films as "REBECCA OF SUNNYBROOK FARM", "BRIGHT EYES" and "STOWAWAY".

So proficient was Shirley at winning over an audience that she was found to be one of the top ten money making stars from 1934 to 1939.

Shirley now resides in Woodside, California, with her husband and three children. She has not acted in films since her appearance in "A KISS FOR CORLISS" in 1950. However, she appeared on television as late as 1958 when she hosted the one hour series, "Shirley Temple Storybook". Recently, Shirley has been involved in the political picture. She ran in the Republican national primaries in 1967 and was chosen as one of the five American delegates to the 24<sup>th</sup> season of the U.N. General Assembly in late 1969."

#### Picturegoer Film Annual 1949 comment:

"It used to be a maxim of the cynics that child stars retired at twelve or so and supported their parents in luxury for the rest of their lives. Of recent years the steady progression of such youngsters as Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland, Deanna Durbin and Shirley Temple makes nonsense of that quip. Take Shirley, for instance. The child super-prodigy of the thirties, she was absent from the screen only for a brief spell and then she returned as a really charming teen-ager. As she grows older, her attraction increases and her acting ability, developed almost from the cradle, becomes increasingly apparent. Her performance in "FORT APACHE" made a charming and credible figure of a young heroine whom almost any other girl in Hollywood of her age could only have made colourless. In another two or three years she will almost certainly give a really outstanding adult performance..."

*[ no marks for that prediction! ]*



Comment from **Junior Coghlan** [qv] on working with Temple on "FROLICS OF YOUTH" (source: **The Silents Majority** website):

"With dear little sister Shirley Temple, from the comedy series "THE FROLICS OF YOUTH" (1933-34) we made for Educational Pictures. By the time Shirley made her fourth two-reeler, 20th Century-Fox stole her away from us and the rest is film history. She was really a little doll at the age of five."

#### 50 Years of the Movies profile:

"...It is a problem assessing which stories about [the Marx brothers] are true and which are invented. Groucho claims that while making "HORSE FEATHERS" Harpo was much taken by a small child and offered her parents \$50,000 to adopt her. The parents refused, which is hardly surprising, but cynics might say they already knew their daughter was worth

much more. She became Hollywood's biggest smallest star – Shirley Temple!

There were virulent rumours circulating that this moppet [*sic*] was, in fact, an adult dwarf, so assured was her acting, singing and dancing on screen. This was a calumny but it **is** supposed to be true that the ringlets which were her cherubic trademark were not her own. Shirley's hair refused to curl so false pieces were woven in to produce the tresses.

Shirley Temple was a star at five years old and by 1938, after a string of amazing successes like "**LITTLE MISS MARKER**" (34), "**BRIGHT EYES**" (34, in which she warbled "On The Good Ship Lollipop"), "**THE LITTLEST REBEL**" (35), "**WEE WILLIE WINKIE**" (37), "**HEIDI**" (37) and "**REBECCA OF SUNNYBROOK FARM**" (38), she was earning a phenomenal \$100,000 per film (it would rise to \$300,000 in 1939) and reputed to be the second highest wage-earner in Hollywood. Only Louis B Mayer took hom more!

Shirley Temple was the ideal child of the Thirties, the sweetest-natured, best-behaved paragon which parents held up to their own brats as an example. But, of course, she had to grow up eventually and by the decade's end, at the decrepit age of 11, she was finding the transitioon from talented tot to acclaimed adolescent difficult. Her career was fitful during the Forties and virtually non-existent by 1950, when she retired. In 1939 she had switched from 20<sup>th</sup> Century-Fox to MGM, who announced that one of her forthcoming films would be "**BABES ON BROADWAY**", sharing star billing with two of Metro's brightest young talents – Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney. It never happened but it would have been fascinating to see Temple and Rooney trying to charm each other off the screen.

In many respects Rooney was the male equivalent of Shirley Temple. He too started young in films – he made his first, a silent, at the age of six in 1926, but his rise to stardom was not as meteoric..."

"...Following the policy that movies should appeal to a family audience, at the end of the decade Mayer's studio, MGM, produced "**THE WIZARD OF OZ**" (39), one of the finest examples of family entertainment ever... Originally Mayer intended to cast Shirley Temple (then 11) as Dorothy. He was so keen to get her he offered to swap Gable and Jean Harlow, his most popular team. in a one-film

trade with 20<sup>th</sup> Century-Fox. Sadly, Harlow died before the deal was concluded and Mayer turned to his own galaxy of stars and selected Garland. She was 16 – too old for the part – and her burgeoning puberty had to be disguised behind a tight bandeau..."





SHIRLEY TEMPLE - FOX FILM PLAYER

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With Junior Coghlan in the series "**FROLICS OF YOUTH**" (1933-34)

Source: *The Silents Majority* website

## FILMOGRAPHY

| Year | Age   | Title  | Role          |
|------|-------|--|---------------|
| deb  | 32    | 4 THE RED-HAIRED ALIBI   |               |
|      | 32    | GLAD RAGS TO RICHES †<br>with <i>Eugene Butler</i>                             |               |
|      | 33    | 5 TO THE LAST MAN<br>with <i>Jay Walter Ward, Delmar Watson</i>                |               |
|      | 33    | OUT ALL NIGHT<br>with <i>Billy Barty</i>                                       |               |
|      | 33-34 | FROLICS OF YOUTH †<br>with <i>Junior Coghlan</i>                               | series        |
|      | 34    | 6 CAROLINA<br>with <i>Ronnie Cosby</i>   |               |
|      | 34    | MANDALAY   |               |
|      | 34    | STAND UP AND CHEER<br>with <i>Scotty Beckett</i>                               |               |
|      | 34    | NOW I'LL TELL<br>with <i>Ronnie Cosby</i>                                      |               |
|      | 34    | CHANGE OF HEART<br>with <i>Mickey Kuhn, Delmar Watson</i>                      |               |
|      | 34    | LITTLE MISS MARKER   | in title role |
|      | 34    | BABY TAKE A BOW  | in title role |
|      | 34    | NOW AND FOREVER<br>with <i>Ronnie Cosby, David Holt, Silas "Buster" Phelps</i> |               |

|    |    |  |                  |
|----|----|--|------------------|
| 34 |    | BRIGHT EYES  | in title role    |
|    |    | with <i>Jane Withers</i>   |                  |
| 35 | 7  | THE LITTLE COLONEL   | in title role    |
| 35 |    | OUR LITTLE GIRL  | in title role    |
| 35 |    | CURLY TOP  | in title role    |
| 35 |    | THE LITTLEST REBEL   | in title role    |
| 36 | 8  | CAPTAIN JANUARY  | as Star          |
|    |    | with <i>Jerry Tucker</i>   |                  |
| 36 |    | POOR LITTLE RICH GIRL  | in title role    |
| 36 |    | DIMPLES  | in title role    |
|    |    | with <i>Leonard Kibrick</i>  |                  |
| 36 |    | STOWAWAY   | in title role    |
| 37 | 9  | WEE WILLIE WINKIE  | in title role    |
|    |    | with <i>Douglas Scott</i>  |                  |
| 37 |    | HEIDI  | in title role    |
|    |    | with <i>Delmar Watson</i>  |                  |
| 38 |    | REBECCA OF SUNNYBROOK FARM   | in title role    |
|    |    | with <i>Jackie Condon, Wally Albright</i>  |                  |
| 38 |    | LITTLE MISS BROADWAY   | in title role    |
| 38 |    | JUST AROUND THE CORNER   |                  |
|    |    | with <i>Bennie Bartlett, Leonard Kibrick, Sidney Kibrick</i>   |                  |
| 39 | 10 | THE LITTLE PRINCESS  | in title role    |
| 39 |    | SUSANNAH OF THE MOUNTIES   | in title role    |
| 40 | 11 | THE BLUE BIRD  |                  |
|    |    | with <i>Johnny Russell; Tommy Baker, Scotty Beckett, Billy Cook, Dickie Moore, Silas "Buster" Phelps, Tommy Tucker</i> |                  |
| 40 |    | YOUNG PEOPLE   |                  |
|    |    | with <i>Bobby Anderson, Darryl Hickman</i>   |                  |
| 41 | 12 | KATHLEEN   | in title role    |
| 42 | 13 | MISS ANNIE ROONEY  | in title role    |
| 44 | 15 | SINCE YOU WENT AWAY  |                  |
|    |    | with <i>Conrad Binyon, Billy "Froggy" Laughlin</i>   |                  |
| 44 |    | I'LL BE SEEING YOU   |                  |
|    |    | with <i>Gary Gray</i>  |                  |
| 45 | 16 | KISS AND TELL  |                  |
|    |    | with <i>Darryl Hickman</i>   |                  |
| 47 | 18 | HONEYMOON  |                  |
| 47 |    | THE BACHELOR AND THE BOBBYSOXER  |                  |
| 47 |    | THE HAGEN GIRL   | in title role ?  |
| 48 | 19 | FORT APACHE  |                  |
| 49 | 20 | MR BELVEDERE GOES TO COLLEGE   |                  |
| 49 |    | ADVENTURE IN BALTIMORE   | as Dinah Sheldon |
| 49 |    | THE STORY OF SEABISCUIT  |                  |
| 49 |    | A KISS FOR CORLISS   |                  |

[ This, according to Halliwell, is her complete filmography – but he missed the titles marked † above ]