

John Boulting (1913-1985) Roy Boulting (1913-2001)

Film Producers and Directors

John Edward Boulting and Roy Alfred Clarence Boulting were born identical twins. Their elder brother Sydney became the actor and theatrical producer Peter Cotes. At School they were active in the dramatic and debating societies, and also

on the games field. John, for instance, was one of the more successful captains of Rugby. Their interest in cinema led them to form one of the first film societies of any school.



At the age of 24 John returned from the Spanish Civil War and formed Charter Films with Roy. Their reputation was already established by the time their film, "*Thunder Rock*" came out in 1942 but, as in 1940 they had joined up (John in the RAF and Roy in the Royal Armoured Corps) the war inevitably slowed their progress. Post war they were quickly back in their stride with "*Fame is the Spur*", "*The Guinea Pig*" and "*Brighton Rock*".

In 1951 came "*The Magic Box*" which was the official Festival of Britain film, and then, started their string of broad comedy successes lampooning British institutions including "*Privates Progress*", "*Lucky Jim*", "*I'm Alright Jack*", "*Carlton Brown of the FO*" and "*The Family Way*".

The National Film Theatre ran a festival of their films in 1958. The twins became prominent in film industry politics as directors of British Lion, financing and distributing films by independent producers and controlling Shepperton Studios.

John and Roy Boulting have an important place in British film history particularly in the sphere of independent film producing.

The twins instituted the Boulting Medal for Drama, in 1946, the School's premier acting award.