

NOTE:- The following article was written in a local paper in 2001

Hitchcock Actress Linden Dies, Aged 88

A gifted north-east actress who worked with Alfred Hitchcock and George Formby has died aged 88. Linden Travers, originally from Houghton-le-Spring in Wearside, moved between femme fatale roles and light comedies with ease during her film career.

She is probably best known for her role in Hitchcock's *The Lady Vanishes* (1939), in which she played the exquisite brunette mistress of the pompous Cecil Parker.

Featuring alongside the classic English rose, Margaret Lockwood, the train-bound thriller was Travers' best and most famous movie.

She also starred alongside Lancashire clown George Formby in the hit comedy *South American George* in 1941, where, almost unheard of in his leading ladies, she got to deliver a punch line.

She was born Florence Linden Travers at Houghton in 1913 and had the fortune to come into a family brimming with acting talent. Her brother, Bill Travers, nephew and daughter also trod the boards. Her father was the first manager of the Pavilion Theatre at Hetton.

She showed her talents at an early age, and while still a pupil at the Convent de la Sargesse, she taught younger classmates elocution, drama, painting and sketching. Her first stage appearances were in the repertory at the playhouse at Newcastle in 1933. She soon started alternating between stage and screen and built up a fine reputation in both.

She died on October 23rd and leaves her two daughters, her brother Ken and her sister-in-law Virginia McKenna.