

Steve Bond

Titles: 1 Sources: 3 Stills: 19

Born: Shlomo Goldberg; Haifa, Israel; April 22nd 1953

After playing a demure, well-groomed liana-swinger (± 13) in the pedestrian "TARZAN AND THE JUNGLE BOY" (like Johnny Sheffield, Manuel Padilla Jr, and other boy sidekicks of the various Tarzans, he was relegated to the role of passive spectator on most of the action) Bond resurfaced a decade later in such trashy titles as "GAS PUMP GIRLS" (78), "THE PREY" (80) and "TO DIE FOR 2: SON OF DARKNESS" (91 - also with Scott Jacoby).



*All stills are from "TARZAN AND THE JUNGLE BOY" (68)
Sources: Various websites*





The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"When the hulking ex-football star Mike Henry made his last appearance as Tarzan he was not in peak condition. He was exhausted from the pressures of the two previous films, and this extra one, **"TARZAN AND THE JUNGLE BOY"**, had been set up at short notice to make the most of some Brazilian sets and locations.

In addition he was suffering from dysentery, and had only recently recovered from "monkey fever" – this deriving from a facial injury inflicted on him, at equally short notice, by an enraged elderly chimpanzee called Dinky. During the shooting of the film itself, infections of the liver and ear were added to his burden. It's a miracle that the poor man could walk, let alone yell and swing from trees.

The jungle boy of the title, round whom the story revolved, was a blond child called Erik Brunik who had accompanied his geologist father, many years earlier, on an expedition into the jungle. Their canoe had overturned, and the father had been drowned. Stranded in the jungle, Erik (now about 12) had learned Tarzanesque skills and acquired the company of a leopard, when discovered by the apeman on behalf of some visiting journalists.

The story develops along the corniest of Tarzanian lines – but this time the great man's "boy" really is something of a find. The young Steve Bond, an earnest and decent deliverer of silly speeches, has a cat-like grace that matches

the pard's. His barefoot running through trees and rocks has genuine exhilaration.

If the jungle boy's accent also seemed exotic, this was neither intentional nor surprising. Steve's real name was Shlomo Goldberg, and he had been born in Israel. After divorce from his father, a ship's steward, little Shlomo's mother had emigrated and taken him to Los Angeles, where she had friends. He had already done some stage work in Israel, and was resuming his career in America when the Tarzan assignment came up, and the dark boy was dyed blond.

A mix-up in the role allocations, presumably from some erroneous handout, has been repeatedly copied over the years, though it has no relation to what appears on the film. Just to put the record straight, Eric really is played by Steve Bond – and not by Ronald Gans, who (not Ed Johnson) plays the photographer-journalist. The good and bad jungle princes are played, respectively, by Ed and his Olympic brother Rafer Johnson.

Bond says he appeared in two more **TARZAN** films shot in Brazil at the same time as **"TARZAN AND THE JUNGLE BOY"**, but for some reason these were never released. Apart from playing Kirk Douglas as a boy in **"THE ARRANGEMENT"**, he had no more screen roles before growing up. He worked by turns as waiter, bouncer, truck-driver and model. (In this last *metier* he achieved some fame as a nude centrefold in *"Playgirl"* in 1973.)



*Even the Johnny Weissmuller **TARZANS** of the 1930s were tainted by a certain woolly post-colonial philanthropism –*

*as though he were a jungle “care worker” eccentrically clad – and by the late 60s this was certainly how the screen writers chose to portray him. The late **TARZAN** films are sedate little homilies on respect for the environment and indigenous peoples, stripped of the escapist allure of “the Dark Continent”, in general profoundly dull and boring.*



*Despite that fine-tuning of the central persona, the setting, and the cultural reference points, these late **TARZANs** still required the same suspension of disbelief – this jungle boy’s hair is immaculately cut and combed, his modest little self-made loincloth neat as a table napkin, and he hasn’t a bruise or a scuff anywhere on his body. Evidently the jungle is no more forbidding a terrain than Kew Gardens. With all of its faults, at least “**GREYSTOKE: THE LEGEND OF TARZAN**” returned to the motif of the jungle as a savage wilderness, and a bit of a rough place to grow up...*

Finally, he broke back into acting, with leads in "CAT MURKIL AND THE SILKS" (76), "MASSACRE AT CENTRAL HIGH" (76), "GAS PUMP GIRLS" (79) and "THE PREY" (84). He also became a glamorous regular in the TV soap opera "General Hospital".

Amazon.com filmography of his “notable TV guest appearances” as an adult:

- 1976 CAT MURKIL AND THE SILKS
(aka: “Cruisin High”)
as Joey
- 1978 GAS PUMP GIRLS
as Butch
- 1979 H.O.T.S (aka: “T & A ACADEMY”)
as John
- 1980 THE PREY
as Joel
- 1981 MIRACLE ON ICE
US TV, as reporter no.2
- 1983 General Hospital
US TV series, as Jimmy Lee Holt
- 1984 Santa Barbara
US TV series, as Mack Blake
- 1988 PICASSO TRIGGER
as Travis Abilene
- 1989 MAGDALENE (aka: “SILENT NIGHT”)
as Father Joseph Mohr
- 1989 TO DIE FOR
(aka: “DRACULA: THE LOVE STORY”)
- 1990 The Love Boat: “A Valentine Voyage”
(aka: “A Summer Cruise”)
US TV series
- 1991 SON OF DARKNESS: TO DIE FOR II
as Tom
- 1992 SPIANDO MARINA / FOXY LADY
as Mark
- 1994 TRYST
as Parkinson

- 1997 SPACEJACKED
as Taylor
- 1999 THE JOYRIDERS
as highway patrolman
- 1999 MY FAVOURITE MARTIAN
as head of SETI

Nambla Bulletin media notes:

“Current male soap star Steve Bond was 11 when his parents separated in Israel; he and his mom left for the US. He loved Los Angeles. Neighbours took him to an agent who got him the big part in “**TARZAN AND THE JUNGLE BOY**”. Having traveled a lot and learned a few languages, he was comfortable filming in Brazil; but he realised there was some beginner’s luck involved. Unable to afford speech coaches, he taught himself to speak English without an accent...”

“In 1968, appealing Steve Bond (still an actor) played a German boy raised by animals in “**TARZAN AND THE JUNGLE BOY**”. This is the movie with the scene (cut in some versions) where the chimp handles Steve’s crotch while Steve lounges, talking to Tarzan.”



FILMOGRAPHY			
Year	Age	Title	Role
67	14	DON'T JUST STAND THERE!	
68	15	TARZAN AND THE JUNGLE BOY	in title role, Erik Brunik
69	16	THE ARRANGEMENT	