

Jonathan Kahn

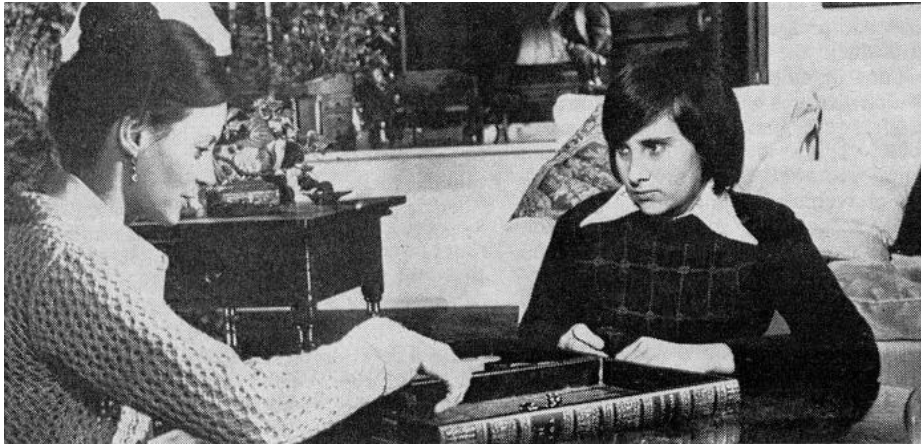
Titles: 3 Sources: 2 Stills: 6

Born: UK; December 21st 1960
Son of actress / theatrical agent Brigitte Kahn



*A come-hitherish look from "**David Copperfield**" (BBC serial 74) for Arthur Lowe's Micawber
In one of the better Dickens serialisations.*

Source: NFT bulletin Nov/Dec 94



"THE SAILOR WHO FELL FROM GRACE WITH THE SEA":

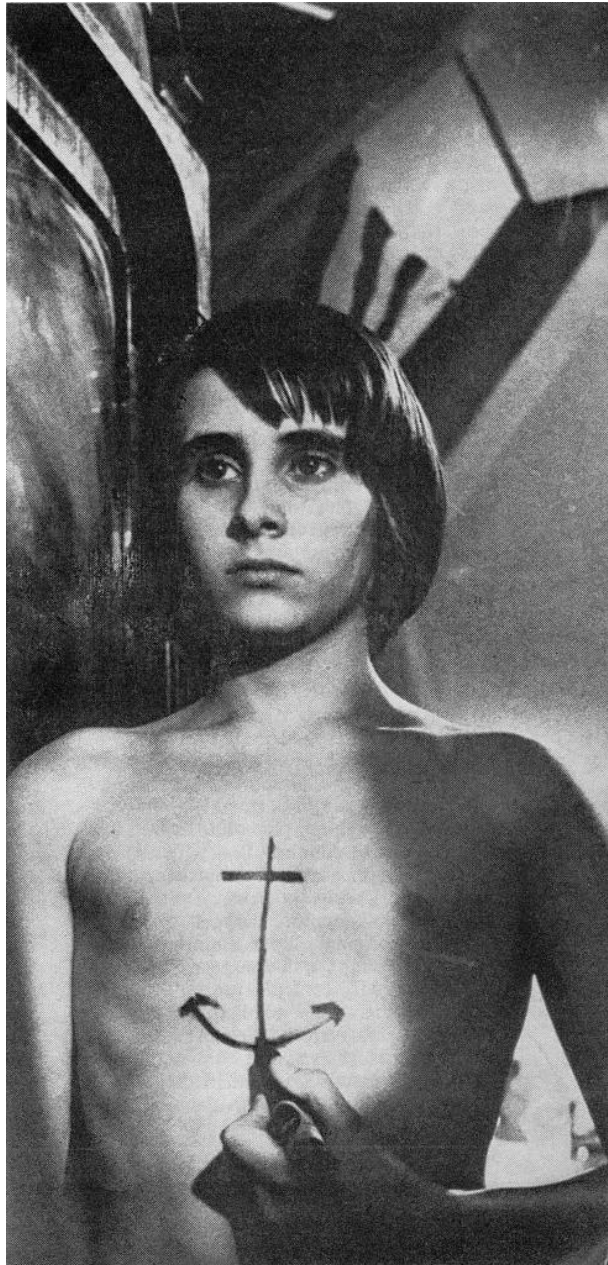
Top: with mother Sarah Miles; bottom left: with hero Kris Kristofferson; bottom right: spying on his mother's bedroom;

Centre: the Chief performs a demonstration for his gang – (l to r) Earl Rhodes, Stephen Black, Gary Lock, Paul Tropea and Kahn.

Source: Films & Filming Sept 76

*Hero worship and the masculine code – as translated from Japan to a sleepy English coastal village – in **“THE SAILOR WHO FELL FROM GRACE WITH THE SEA”***

Source: Films & Filming Sept 76



After starring as “**David Copperfield**” in a 1975 TV serialisation (Arthur Lowe well-cast as Micawber) he was given two very demanding roles – as the possessive and voyeuristic son of a widow in “**THE SAILOR WHO FELL FROM GRACE WITH THE SEA**” (based on a Mishima novel), and as spoilt rich boy Harvey in a TV remake of “**CAPTAINS COURAGEOUS**”, which remained more faithful to the original Kipling story. In this version the boy becomes attached, not to the sailor Manoel (Ricardo Montalban) but to Captain Drisco (Karl Malden). Jonathan did not equal Freddie Bartholomew’s fire in the role, making Harvey a more sulky boy.

In “**THE SAILOR WHO FELL..**” he plays Jonathan Osborne (13) who idolises a seaman he believes epitomises the masculine virtues, until the seaman begins an affair with his mother and decides to abandon the sea for her. Jonathan, dominated at school by an amoral boy calling himself “Chief”, conspires with the Chief’s gang to prevent the sailor – by the grimmest possible means – from so violating the proper order of things.

Excerpt from **Films & Filming** review of "THE SAILOR WHO FELL FROM GRACE WITH THE SEA":

"...The two elements of the story are brought together by Jonathan who, by night, spies on his mother and her lover and, by day, hero-worships the sailor as the embodiment of his ideals of animal grace, glory and simplicity. Putting up with the cynicism and biting scorn of the Chief, Jonathan persists in his hero-worship until the fateful day his mother announces she is going to marry the sailor, who will abandon his life at sea for the more alluring comforts on shore.

Jonathan feels betrayed. Mortified and disillusioned, he returns to the Chief, taking with him a journal in which he has methodically recorded the sailor's "crimes" against the perfect order. The Chief appears sympathetic; his solution is deliberate, straightforward and entirely in accord with his (and Mishima's) philosophy of grace and retribution.

...My only quibble is with Jonathan, who emerges as a nasty, sneaky brat whose every move is contrived to curry favour. The character is a difficult one to portray, but Jonathan Kahn could and should have made more of it. As it is his sullen looks become repetitive and by the end one can hardly wait to get him off the screen. A pity because every other element in the film goes a long way towards clarifying the enigma surrounding Mishima's extraordinary life and death.."

Excerpt from **The Moving Picture Boy** entry on Johnny Doran [qv]:

"...Most of his later work was for TV. He took the Rooney part in a remake of "CAPTAINS COURAGEOUS" – opposite the exquisitely hateful Jonathan Kahn.."

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
74	14	David Copperfield 	UK TV serial, in title role
76	15	THE SAILOR WHO FELL FROM GRACE WITH THE SEA	as Jonathan Osborne (13)
		with <i>Earl Rhodes, Stephen Black, Gary Locke, Paul Tropea</i>	
77	16	CAPTAINS COURAGEOUS	US TV, in central role, Harvey
		with <i>Johnny Doran</i>	