

Earl Rhodes

Titles: 1 Sources: 1 Stills: 1

Born: UK

In “**THE SAILOR WHO FELL FROM GRACE WITH THE SEA**”, he played “Chief” of a secret society of five schoolboys who contrive the gruesome death of a sailor for violating their notions of purity and honour (by abandoning the sea to marry the mother of one of them – Jonathan Kahn). Nothing else is known about him. He’s not listed in *The Moving Picture Boy*.



Left, with Stephen Black Source: *Films & Filming* Sept 76

Excerpt from **Films & Filming** review :

“...Young Jonathan (age 13) is a withdrawn child with the sensitivity and self-absorption of one who has all his mother’s attention. He has three over-riding enthusiasms: the sea, ships and a highly precocious [*sic*], intelligent and

dangerous schoolmate, referred to throughout as Chief.

Jonathan is No 3 in Chief’s secret society of five. This is no ordinary schoolboy-club for at its head is a thirteen-year-old cynic with the willpower, despair and morbid philosophy of his creator. (Earl Rhodes is horribly believable

in what must be the most demanding role ever thrust upon a young actor.) According to the Chief, "morality is just a set of rules invented by stupid adults". He exhorts his followers, by a mixture of violence, patronage and brilliance, to "dismantle the rules" and seek the "perfect order". To demonstrate what he means he dissects the family cat, displaying its heart (ie essence) and explaining that the creature can now return to the state of grace it forfeited to milk-sapping and cosy living.

Austerity and rigid control are essential ingredients in the Chief's code. He summons his young followers to midnight meetings; when one of them doesn't show up, Chief punishes him by toppling acid over his head during a lesson in the school lab. He shows

the society a series of graphically photographed sex-positions, filched from his doctor-father's surgery; when the boys crow with adolescent delight, Chief snatches the pictures, angrily berating his companions for their weakness and stupidity. Within his society the Chief demands total obedience and blind loyalty. (The parallels with Mishima's paramilitary "Shield Society" of 100 Japanese youths are frighteningly obvious.)..."

FILMOGRAPHY			
Year	Age	Title	Role
76		THE SAILOR WHO FELL FROM GRACE WITH THE SEA	as "Chief" with Jonathan Kahn, Paul Tropea, Gary Locke, Stephen Black