

Apa

("Father")

Hungary : 1966 : dir. István Szabó : Hungarofilm-Mafilm Studio 3 : 95 min

prod: : scr: István Szabó : dir.ph.: Sándor Sára

Dáni Erdélyi

András Bálint; Miklós Gábor; Kati Solyom; Klári Tolnay; Zsuzsa Ráthonyi

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5694	1.5	5	0	576	-	-	-	-	-	No	unseen

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"A son idealises his father, who died in WW2, as a heroic patriot and resistance leader, in flashbacks where reality and speculation are intertwined. Gradually he develops a more realistic view of his father. The film won Szabó ("MEPHISTO") the top prize in Moscow. Convincing performances and a good period atmosphere of the post-WW2 years will also enthrall Dutch audiences. *** "

Bloomsbury Foreign Film Guide review:

"A growing boy (Bálint) attempts to come to terms with truths about his dead father (Gábor) whom he remembers only as a hero who helped the Jews during the war. He has a Jewish girlfriend (Solyom) and, after the 1956 uprising, they both begin to question their parents' generation. Szabó's second film, told in a technically assured fragmentary style, explores a subject that forms the basis for most of his work – the relationship of Hungary's post-war generation to the past. Here it is symbolised by a sensitively and humorously observed personal history, acted with great conviction, especially by Bálint."

The Good Film and Video Guide review:

"Hungary between the end of the war and the revolution in 1956, as recalled by a young man, though what he remembers best is his father's heroism, especially in helping the Jews. He talks of this to a girl, Jewish herself, as they walk along the Danube, one of several freshly observed sequences. Indeed, the whole film is beautifully, if not flawlessly, made. *** "

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89 review:

"Post-Stalin Hungarian films are distinguished by a certain philosophical quality, intelligence, and a rich suggestiveness that assails on both political and personal fronts. Istvan Szabo's second film displays these qualities, arguing the over-riding need of a true conception of one's history and heritage, as a boy finally accepts the realities of his father's past. ***1/2 "

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

"Istvan Szabo, best known for the Oscar-winning "MEPHISTO", directed this drama. It concerns a boy who creates an elaborate fantasy about the heroism of his father, who was killed in World War II. As an adult, he is led by the uprising of 1956 and the love of a Jewish girl to abandon his fantasies and examine the reality of his heritage. Slow-moving but provocative. In Hungarian with English subtitles. *** "

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Classical Foreign Films from 1960 to Today", "The Critics' Film Guide", "A Pictorial History of the Talkies", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Not to be confused with the 1990 Australian film "**FATHER**". Speculatively included here, on the assumption the "growing boy" appears as a child in flashback sequences, played presumably by Erdélyi. Nothing else is known of him.

See subject index under [EASTERN EUROPE / SOVIET BLOC](#), [OSCAR-WINNERS / AWARD-WINNERS](#) and [WAR](#). Exceptionally close father/son relationships are listed (not unreasonably) under **FATHER'S SONS**.