

Background

(US: "Edge of Divorce")

UK : 1953 : dir. Daniel Birt : Group Three

: 82 min

prod: Herbert Mason : scr: Warren Chetham Strode & Don Sharp : dir.ph.: Arthur Grant

[Janette Scott](#); [Jeremy Spenser](#); [Mandy Miller](#)

Valerie Hobson; Philip Friend; Norman Wooland; Richard Wattis

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ € Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Jeremy Spenser, Janette Scott, Mandy Miller

Source: Picturegoer Film Annual 1957-58

Halliwell's Film Guide review

"Two people decide on divorce, but thoughts of their children bring them together again. Low budget, stiff-upper-lip marriage guidance tract, well acted but more well-intentioned than memorable. Scr: Warren Chetham Strode and Don Sharp, from Strode's play. * "

The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television review:

"Stilted drama of effects on children of marriage breakdown, steeped in the values of 1953. Janette Scott, Mandy Miller, Jeremy Spenser (trying to kill new dad with airgun) are

the moppets [sic]; Valerie Hobson is dis-tressed, genteel Mum. Director, Daniel Birt. 77 ”

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. I get heartily sick of reading critic after critic describing child actors contemptuously as “moppets”. There is of course no corresponding word for adult actors or actresses, and it reveals only too well what opinion these people hold of children. Underneath all the “family values” rhetoric we hear today, the same old haughty, dismissive attitudes to kids are alive and well.

Divorce in the 1950s was still an occasion for earnest finger-wagging and disapproving whispers, before it became such a pandemic that the validity of marriage itself could be questioned on afternoon talk shows. See **“NO PLACE FOR JENNIFER”** (49) for a companion piece to this one, also with Janette Scott as the primary barometer of family trauma, plus William Fox, William Simons and Brian Smith.

Janette Scott was 15 now, her other films including **“WENT THE DAY WELL?”** (42), **“NO HIGHWAY”** (50) and **“THE MAGIC BOX”** (51). Mandy Miller was 9. Aside from the eponymous **“MANDY”** (52), she made **“THE MAN IN THE WHITE SUIT”** (51), **“DANCE LITTLE LADY”** (54) and **“A CHILD IN THE HOUSE”** (56). Jeremy Spenser was 16, his crowning moment coming as the music prodigy in **“PRELUDE TO FAME”** (50), but he was also seen in **“PORTRAIT OF CLARE”** (48) and **“APPOINTMENT WITH VENUS”** (51).

See subject index under **DIVORCE / CUSTODY BATTLES**.