

K graphic

## The Boy Who Turned Yellow

UK : 1972 : dir. Michael Powell : Roger Cherrill / Children's Film Foundation : 54 min  
prod: Roger Cherrill : scr. Emeric Pressburger : dir.ph.: Christopher Challis  
[Mark Dightam](#) .....  
Lem Kitaj; Robert Eddison; Brian Worth; Helen Weir; Esmond Knight

| Ref:  | Pages | Sources | Stills | Words | Ω □ ∅ Z ∞ | Copy on VHS | Last Viewed |
|-------|-------|---------|--------|-------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 2216a | 1½    | 3       | 2      | 550   | 3 - - - - | No          | Unseen      |



Turning yellow on the London Underground is something **mysterious**?? Source: CFF Catalogue & Index 1972

**NFT bulletin** - April '76 - review:

“A science fiction story, with credits to grace any film. Story and screenplay by Emeric Pressburger, photography by Christopher Challis and direction by Michael Powell, with Robert Eddison as Nick, the visitor from space. An excellent fantasy, with some nice effects and a genuine air of suspense.”

**Children's Film Foundation** Catalogue & Index of Films 1972 note:

“When John unaccountably turns yellow and receives a visit from a being who feeds on electricity, it is obvious that he is in for some strange adventures.”

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "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", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

**TV Quick** note:

“A boy is visited by an alien.”



*Behold the Amazing Electro-Being*

Source: *NFT Bulletin*

No further information currently available. It might ease the pain somewhat if we could view these CFF productions as amateur films with an unusually robust distribution network. But then 16mm amateur films are not exhibited at the National Film Theatre, and they can rarely call on the talents of professional TV and film actors – there are many familiar faces and names in the CFF's catalogue. This one, what's more, utilises the talents of a British director of repute - Powell also directed **"THE THIEF OF BAGHDAD"** and **"PEEPING TOM"**, among many others.

But don't expect an **"E.T. THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL"** from this quarter though. Expect rather a **"KADOYNG"**, which the CFF also released about this time. Jolly alien visitors to Earth are a recurring event in children's films and TV serials, - **"A.L.F."**, **"The Boy From Andromeda"**, **"Chocky"**, **"EXPLORERS"**, **"MAC AND ME"**, **"The Miraculous Mellors"** - and are sometimes teamed up with kids in any case – **"THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL"**, for example. They seldom take a menacing form in such cases (the low-budget **"XTRO"** being one exception). A slight but obvious permutation on the idea was wrought in the Bud Spencer vehicle **"UNO SCERIFFO EXTRATERRESTRE... MOLTO TERRESTE, POCO EXTRA"** (79, aka: "The Sheriff and the Satellite Kid"), in which the alien visitor was itself a small boy, played by Cary Guffey hot on the heels of his Spielberg success.

Mark Dightam, here in the title role, revealed his all the previous year as Macduff's son in the ill-omened Polanski **"MACBETH"** ("He has killed me, mother!"), and showed up again in **"SAM AND THE RIVER"** (72) and **"IMPOSSIBLE OBJECT"** (73). He was 13.

See subject index under **CHILDREN'S FILM & TV FOUNDATION**, and under **SCIENCE FICTION** for more extraterrestrial chums.