

Children Galore

UK : 1954 : dir. Terence Fisher : Grendon (GFD) : 60 min
 prod: Henry Passmore : scr: John Bonnet, Emery Bonnet & Peter Plaskett : dir.ph.:

Eddie Byrne; Marjorie Rhodes; June Thorburn; Richard Leach; Betty Ann Davies;
 Jack McNaughton; Peter Evan Thomas; Marjorie Hume; Lucy Griffiths; Henry Caine

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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The British Film Catalogue 1895-1985 listing:

“Comedy. Squire offers cottage to the villager with the most grandchildren.”

Radio Times Guide to Films review:

“In launching the famous Hammer horror cycle, Terence Fisher secured his place in history. However, this early comedy did nothing for his reputation even though, with its quaint country setting, it has a vaguely Ealing feel. By deciding to build a cottage for the family with the most grandchildren, squire Peter Evan Thomas sends the village of Tussock into turmoil, with neighbours jeopardising decades of friendship as the search for eligible grandfathers and cute kids intensifies. Fun in a very English sort of way, this programme-filler has the advantage of being short and to the point. ** ”

Cast:

Zacky JonesEddie Byrne
 Ada JonesMarjorie Rhodes
 Milly ArkJune Thorburn
 Harry BunnionRichard Leach
 Mrs ArkBetty Ann Davies
 Pat ArkJack McNaughton
 Lord RedscarfePeter Evan Thomas
 Lady RedscarfeMarjorie Hume
 Miss PrescottLucy Griffiths
 Bert BunnionHenry Caine

[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"]

No further information currently available. An obscure and forgotten British (faux Ealing) comedy, not listed in any other source – including *The Moving Picture Boy* – and all credit to the Radio Times guide for mentioning it. Reading between the lines, however, it seems clear that the children of the title are a mere commodity with no significant role in the proceedings – no more than the liquor kegs of **“WHISKEY GALORE”**. None of the cast listed above are children, which is a fair indication. For a comparable, but equally obscure, British “comedy” of more immediate appeal, see **“NO KIDDING”** (60), in which a young couple try to convert their country estate into a summer camp for children.

As for Fisher having secured his place in Valhalla by the Hammer horror cycle, those films were almost universally abysmal, as formulaic, resolutely lowbrow and shabbily thrown together as the **Carry On** series, and their only negligible merit was that they proved more popular with UK audiences than most higher-budget British releases of the day. Hammer was not the nail in the coffin of the British film industry, but it was certainly emblematic of an industry in a state of advanced decomposition.

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