

The Clown and the Kids

US TV : 19 [67] : dir. [Mende Brown] : ? [75] min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

.....
 Cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	□	≠	Z	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
2325a	½	1	0	158	-	-	-	-	-	No	<i>unseen</i>

What's On TV note:

“When the circus comes to town, a clown has a Pied Piper effect on the local kids. American TV adventure.”

[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. I think we can rule out Ronald McDonald though.

See subject index under **CIRCUS / CLOWNS / FAIRGROUNDS**.

[The prededing has been confused with the following, both entries referring to the same film]

Svirachat

(= “? ? ?” UK/US: “The Pied Piper”)

Bulgaria / US : 1966 : dir. : ? min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

Oleg Kovachev; Yanush Alurkov

Cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Kbytes	Ω	□	≠	Z	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5058	1½	1	-		3	-	-	-	-	No	<i>Unseen</i>

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Kovachev:

“This sensitive boy, son of the cameraman Hristo Kovachev, had a memorable lead in his first film, **"KNIGHT WITHOUT ARM-OUR"**, as a child hurt and baffled by the unpleasant illogicalities of adult behaviour. In due course Oleg grew up and became a film director. His son Boyan played an important role in **"TI, KOITO SI NA NEBETO"** (89 – "Thou Which Art in Heaven").”

Excerpt from **The Moving Picture Boy** entry on Alurkov:

“Yanush, son of the director Georgi Alurkov - who in fact only directed him once, in **"KONNIKUT"** - was a strong, passionate brunet who graduated from appealing cameos to emotional leading roles.

In the last of these, **"MEZHDU DVAMATA"** (he has no part to mention in **"THE PIED PIPER"**) he is, as the title suggests, happy with neither of his parents. To attempt a rapprochement with his uncaring father, he

stows away and confronts him on a river-barge.

Dimitar Petrov, who gets a superb performance from young Alurkov, had earlier directed him in another boat-film, **"KAPITANAT"**. This was one of the most popular Bulgarian movies of its decade, with the deeply-felt conflicts of friendship and peer pressure one associates with good old-fashioned boy's fiction.”

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "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 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. Despite being a US co-production this is absent from every film guide I've consulted. Rats! Two film versions of Nevil Shute's WW2 story of the same title serve only to confuse the issue, but the original Hamelin folk tale has been filmed in English only once, to my current knowledge – an eccentric 1972 version starring Donovan, when the UK film industry (not undeservedly) was on its last legs.

It was made for US TV on two occasions - a 1957 musical version with Van Johnson ("**THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN**") and a 1985 edition in Shelley Duvall's "**Faerie Tale Theater**" series, this time with ex-Python Eric Idle. Almost certainly there were silent cinema renditions of the story, and this is doubtless not the only East European one (traditional folk tales were more often filmed there). The 1970s US children's TV show "**The Pied Piper**" was merely a storytelling/cartoon slot with a fat jovial presenter in mediaeval attire.

Kovachev was 11 and Yanush Alerkov 13. After "**RITSAR BEZ BRONYA**" ("Knight Without Armour") in '65 he also appeared in "**NAI DULGATA NOSHT**" ("The Longest Night", '69).

See subject index under **EASTERN EUROPE / SOVIET BLOC, FANTASY / FOLK TALES / FAIRY TALES** and **HISTORY**.