

The Cure

US : 1995 : dir. Peter Horton : : 99 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
Brad Renfro; Joseph Mazzello
 Annabella Sciorra; Diana Scarwid; Bruce Davison; Nicky Katt; Aeryk Egan; Renee Humphrey

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ € Z ♂	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Renfro and Mazzello discuss whether there could be intelligent life on Earth

Source: Radio Times

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide
 1996 review:

"Imperfect but often moving story about two small-town, pre-teen outsiders who become fast friends: new-kid-in-town Renfro and AIDS-stricken Mazzello, who contracted the HIV virus during a blood transfusion. At its best when focusing on the boys' evolving relationship; the title refers to a miracle AIDS cure which plays a key role in the story. **1½"

Radio Times rental video review:

"Young Erik is given a hard time by his schoolmates when Dexter moves in next door. Dexter has contracted the HIV virus through a blood transfusion and, though his mother (Annabella Sciorra) remains chirpy, he is clearly dying. Despite the surrounding prejudice, bigotry and - most dangerous of all - ignorance, the two lads become firm friends and set out to find a cure for AIDS themselves. It's a nice movie, if a slightly predictable one."

[no listing in "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995"]

No further information currently available. For evidence of the social prejudices still attached to AIDS we have only to note that *both* the above reviews are very quick to point out that young Joseph Mazzello did not contract the virus by hanging around men's toilets, but by a blood transplant – so that's alright then, isn't it. If he'd caught it by being too liberal with his sexual favours he'd be less deserving of our sympathy, yes? Right on, Maltin! Right on, Radio Times!

Brad Renfro debuted effectively in "**THE CLIENT**" the previous year, while Mazzello, though still probably best identified as Tim from "**JURASSIC PARK**", attracted serious critical praise for his performance in "**SHADOWLANDS**" (93) and as the battered younger brother of Elijah Wood in "**RADIO FLYER**" (92). He was also seen in "**JERSEY GIRL**" (92) and "**THE RIVER WILD**" (94) and would seem a safe bet for an adult career. In so far as "**THE CURE**" also tells of a younger boy and older one joining forces to resolve the younger one's major crisis, it bears more than a passing resemblance to "**RADIO FLYER**".

See subject index under **DEATH / DYING CHILDREN, DISCRIMINATION / PREJUDICE** and **HOSPITAL / SICK CHILDREN** for other material, fiction and non-fiction, on young HIV/AIDS sufferers, notably "**THE RYAN WHITE STORY**" (89), with Lucas Haas. Other comparable titles would include "**LORENZO'S OIL**" (92) and "**A TIME TO LIVE**" (86). They all slot neatly into the neo-matriarchal construct of "*the child as victim*" which has pervaded late twentieth century cinema.