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Daylight Robbery

UK : 19[64] : dir. Michael Truman : Viewfinder / Children's Film Foundation : 57 min
prod: John Davis : scr: Derry Quinn : dir.ph.:
[Trudy Moors; Daryl Read](#)
Janet Hannington; Kirk Martin; Patricia Burke; Zena Walker; Janet Munro; Ronald Fraser;
Gordon Jackson; Norman Rossington; James Villiers

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Children's Film Foundation catalogue and index of films (1972) listing:

"Three children are accidentally locked in a supermarket for the weekend - and find themselves involved with a gang of crooks who are using the basement to tunnel into the bank vaults next door. Made by Viewfinder Films Ltd. Story by Frank Wells. Script by Derry Quinn. Produced by John Davis."

[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"]

Don't tell me. No no, I'm keen to guess! The three children assist the charismatic rogues with their bank heist, picking up valuable skills and ear-curdling underworld banter, then they celebrate by comprehensively looting the supermarket. The police shortly arrest three black youths from the neighbourhood and secure convictions against all. How am I doing so far?

But ah! We have entered that strange twilight world of the children's film, where crooks are always the bad guys, and hapless imbeciles to boot, where children have an unshakeable belief in Law and Order, and the worst that may befall them by interfering with professional villains is to be temporarily trussed up before escaping by a simple wheeze. This is the world where boys and girls socialise freely together, but traditional gender roles remain intact, a world where justice prevails and injustice never surpasses having your pocket money stopped for some trifling domestic oversight.

Are there any children above the age of six who will still swallow such yarns? Were there any back in the sixties, when this film was supposedly made? The popularity of Enid Blyton showed there was always a ready market for *kids vs grown-ups* tales, but the simple minds at the CFF seem to have interpreted this as an absolute doctrine, ignoring the example of continental children's films, which have drawn their storylines more often from reality, presenting credible three-dimensional characters and conflicts. There is a place perhaps for these "Just William" style plots, but so much of the CFF catalogue runs tired permutations on the same basic premise that it speaks of a stultifying poverty of creative imagination, and film-making by numbers.

Nothing further is known of Trudy Moors, nor Darryl Read, who is not listed in *The Moving Picture Boy*.

See subject index under **CHILDREN'S FILM & TV FOUNDATION** and **KIDS OUTWIT THE CROOKS**.