

The Evacuees

UK TV : 1975 : dir. Alan Parker : BBC : 85 min
 prod: Mark Shivas : scr: Jack Rosenthal : dir.ph.: Brian Tufano
 Gary Carp; Steven Serember
 Maureen Lipman; Ray Mort; Margery Mason

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[Last broadcast: 21/12/91]



Steven Serember and Gary Carp in full Home Guard regalia

Source: BBC TV Presents

The Good Film and Video Guide review:

"Jack Rosenthal wrote this touching, honest and presumably autobiographical piece about two small boys, from the Jewish ghetto in Manchester, who because of the war are sent to live with a middle-aged suburban couple in a seaside resort. This television film won a number of awards, proving that even in that medium justice is sometimes done. ***"

NFT bulletin – June 1982 – review:

" "NO HARD FEELINGS", written, directed and independently financed by (Alan) Parker, recounts the growing pains of adolescence against the background of East London during the Blitz. It led to his award-winning BBC film "THE EVACUEES" (from a Jack Rosenthal script), a sensitive comedy-drama about two Jewish boys and the fate which awaits them when they are evacuated from Manchester to Blackpool at the outbreak of World War II. Producer: Mark Shivas."

Halliwell's *Television Companion* review:

"Two Jewish boys are evacuated to St Annes at the start of World War II, but try to escape back to Manchester. Moving and amusing nostalgic comedy, impeccably realised. Writer: Jack Rosenthal; ph: Brian Tufano ****"

"Stunning to look at and easy to feel."
- *Daily Mirror*

BBC TV Presents – a Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration caption:

"**"THE EVACUEES"**, broadcast in March 1975, was a dramatised account of the evacuation of two Jewish boys from Manchester during the war. It starred (left to right) Steven Serember (Neville) and Gary Carp (Danny)."

What's On TV note:

"Jack Rosenthal drama shown on Christmas Day 1975. Two Jewish schoolboys are evacuated from Manchester to Blackpool in 1939."

Sunday Times (?) review:

"Having been reminded by Channel 4 that it is sitting on a treasure house of good old television, Alan Yentob's BBC2 is now intent on enriching itself by raiding the archives. In the short term anyway this should be to the benefit of us all. The only worry is that the freshness of the antique comedy formulae and the power of the single plays for yesterday may

cause further demoralisation in the production ranks.

Included in the day-long library package, carrying the premature label of "A Perfect Christmas", is Jack Rosenthal's **"THE EVACUEES"**. Mark Shivas, who produced this lovely comedy in 1975, is now head of the BBC Drama Group. If he can come up with one 1992 "single play", carrying dialogue as individual, evocative and generous as Rosenthal achieved then, there should be general rejoicing.

Jack Rosenthal belongs to a generation brought up in the word culture and, we may be sure, **"THE EVACUEES"** is rich in autobiographical content. It concerns two Jewish brothers of about his age, eight at the outbreak of the Second World War, evacuated from Manchester to St Anne's. They face seaside landlady hazards at least as fearful as the operations of Hitler's Luftwaffe; and are as eager to escape as any inmate of Colditz."

"...A bigger treat is the repeat of Jack Rosenthal's **"THE EVACUEES"**, that wonderfully tender 1975 comedy about two small Jewish boys."

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film 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. Playwright Rosenthal also gave us **"BARMITZVAH BOY"** among others, while director Parker went on to make **"BUGSY MALONE"** and **"MISSISSIPPI BURNING"**. Numerous films have dealt with the experiences, filtered through lenses of comedy, drama or sentiment and nostalgia as the case may be, of British city children evacuated in WW2, from Leacock's **"REACH FOR GLORY"** to Boorman's more recent **"HOPE AND GLORY"**. A 1941 comedy - to give the authentic flavour of the time - was **"THOSE KIDS FROM TOWN"**. In 1982 Channel 4 made a short film for Welsh TV – **"JONI JONES: Y FACIWIS"**, about two Liverpool boys evacuated to Wales, and a Welsh boy's impressions of them. Nothing else is known of Gary Carp or Steven Serember.

See subject index under [AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL TITLES](#), [COMEDY](#), [REFUGEES / EVACUEES](#) and [WAR](#), and see in particular ["NO HARD FEELINGS"](#).

