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Gummi Tarzan

("Rubber Tarzan")

Denmark : 1981 : dir. Søren Kragh-Jacobsen : Metronome : ? min

prod: : scr: Søren Kragh-Jacobsen & Hans Hansen : dir.ph.: Dan Lautsen

[Alex Svanbjerg](#)

Otto Brandenburg; Peter Schrøder

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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International Film Guide 1982 note:

"...Søren Kragh-Jacobsen (famous for "WANNA SEE MY BEAUTIFUL NAVEL?") is starting "RUBBER TARZAN", also a children's film."

Excerpt from **NFT bulletin** - Nov/Dec '82 - general note on Scandinavian cinema:

"... The Nordic countries are foremost in the craft of making films for and about children. Features like "**SILVER MOUTH**" and "**RUBBER TARZAN**" have delighted adults as much as they have 12-year olds, and offer an example to British and American studios of just how sensitive and diverting a really good "kids' movie" can be.. "

[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"]

Ivan is a skinny boy held in slight regard by his schoolmates and macho father, who teasingly dubs him "Rubber Tarzan" for his lack of muscle. Ivan seeks solace in his friendship with a dockside crane-driver (Ole?) and embarks on soothing flights of fancy in an empty cargo container on the docks. He dreams he is possessed of superhuman strength, and teaches his taunters a lesson.

"**GUMMI TARZAN**", enthusiastically greeted outside of Scandinavia on its release, is in retrospect a slight children's film when compared to some Danish and Swedish titles which came later, but at its core is a gentle and healing friendship between the undervalued boy and a matter-of-fact, understanding adult with no pretensions to psychology. The slapstick fantasy sequences are designed to please children, but lack the anarchic *joie de vivre* of some other Scandinavian children's films. No masterpiece then, but warm, child-friendly and unpatronising, and one can do a deal worse than that, as Disney consistently demonstrates. Nothing else is known of Alex Svanbjerg.

See subject index under **SCANDINAVIA** and **SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS**.