

Horace

UK TV play : 1972 : dir. Alan Clarke : BBC : ? min
 prod: : scr: Roy Minton : dir.ph.:

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 Cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω 8 ∞ M ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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From the cloth cap and short trousers, I assume it's a period piece – the 1930s or 1950s

Source: NFT flier

NFT flier – February 2002 – note:

“Roy Minton’s sad, sweet drama about the friendship of a mentally-impaired man and a misfit schoolboy. (First broadcast BBC 21.3.72)”

No further information currently available. It almost qualifies as a theme unto itself – the befriending by children of mentally-handicapped adults outside the Maginot line of the family. It's as though mental impairment – or so writers believe – places the adult on a more equal footing with the child, exonerates the relationship in some way, which would be “naturally suspect” without it. I daresay such thoughts were very far from the mind of Roy Minton in 1972, but the Maginot line had not been erected as yet.

The NFT flier notes are rather misleading. According to *Halliwel's Filmgoer's Companion*, writer Minton went on to expand his theme in a six-part series (also called “[Horace](#)”) for Yorkshire Television. The date for that series is given as 1982, but it doesn't seem likely there'd have been a ten-year gap between the two, so one of the dates is probably wrong. The Yorkshire series followed the experiences of the boy – who himself is mentally backward – as an older youth after leaving school, and explores aspects (let's **not** use that overworked word “issues”) of integrating such people with the community. Seen in that light, this play is about a mentally-impaired boy finding companionship with a like adult in his home town, and not at all what the NFT description suggests. Barry Jackson played Horace in the serial, but the boy pictured overleaf is unlikely to be the same actor.

See also the later serial, and subject index under **DISABLED / HANDICAPPED, SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS** and **TV PLAYS**.