

Johnny Holiday

US : 1949 : dir. Willis Goldbeck : United Artists : 92 min
 prod: R.W. Alcorn : scr: Jack Andrews, Willis Goldbeck & Frederick Stephani : dir.ph.:
[Allan Martin Jr](#)
 William Bendix; Stanley Clements; Donald Gallagher; Jack Hagen; Greta Granstedt;
 Leo Cleary; Alma Platt; Hoagy Carmichael

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω □ ∅ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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"Rough-hewn but saintly" William Bendix wrestles for the soul of bad boy Allan Martin Source: United Artists Story

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide
 2001 review:

"Remarkably sincere study of juvenile delinquent torn between friends from dishonest past and those trying to help him at reform farm. *** "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review - identical to above

Halliwel's Film Guide review

"A reform school boy becomes a goodie through devotion to his sergeant. Sentimental mush."

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89
 review:

"Sincere drama. Delinquent boy is reformed at the Indiana Boys' School. ***½ "

The United Artists Story comment:

"**JOHNNY HOLIDAY**" was one of those sincere, sentimental semi-documentaries, in the tradition of "**BOYS' TOWN**" (MGM 1938), about a model reform school. Roland Alcorn's production was actually shot by Willis Goldbeck at the Indiana Boys' School, situated in acres of unenclosed land. Goldbeck, Jack Andrews and Frederick Stephens devised a well-meaning tale of a wayward 12-year old lad (Allan Martin Jr) who comes under the bad influence of an older delinquent (Stanley Clements). The latter shoots and wounds the tough but warm-hearted supervisor (William Bendix) while trying to run away. But both the boys' confidence is won, and they are rehabilitated. Other actors mingling with the staff and boys of the school were Donald Gallagher, Jack Hagen, Greta Granstedt, Leo Cleary and Alma Platt. Even Hoagy Carmichael managed to pop up at one stage to sing the boys a Christmas song, and the real Governor of Indiana also put in an appearance as himself. It was that kind of movie"

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Martin:

"Allan, a pudgier American version of Roddy McDowall, was signed up for the lead in "**JOHNNY HOLIDAY**", and given a contract with United Artists, after touring in a play with the Lunts.

"**JOHNNY HOLIDAY**" was a traditional moral tale. Landing in a reformatory of the open-air, agricultural type, our hero was pulled one way by the vicious delinquent Stanley Clements, the other by the rough-hewn but saintly over-seer William Bendix. An uneven contest, of course."

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "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. Allan Martin Jr, here 13, only made one other film according to Holmstrom (it must have been a short contract with United Artists!), and that was "**HER FIRST ROMANCE**" in 1951. It would be interesting to know what cut his career so short.

One for the social conscience school, typified by Warner Brothers in the 30s with titles like "**DEAD END**" and "**THEY MADE ME A CRIMINAL**". Today the kids in such tales would be cast almost entirely from black (or Puerto Rican) stock, introducing a racial dimension to the social privation which, these earlier films suggest, is a smokescreen. All of the same behavioural problems (discounting narcotics) and young offender "treatment" programmes pre-existed the explosion of inner city racial ghettos.

See subject index under **CRIME / DELINQUENCY, PRISON / REFORM SCHOOLS, SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS** and possibly also **CHRISTMAS** and **FARMS & FARMING**.