

Kidnapped

US TV : 1994 : dir. Bobby Roth : Patchett-Kaufman : c90 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
Jesse Stock; Justin Garms; Will Rothhaar
 Dabney Coleman; Timothy Busfield; Tracey Walter; Barbara Williams; Martin Davidson;
 Susie Singer; David Neidorf; Carole Davis; Mia Cottet; Christine Jansen; David Schickele

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Kbytes	Ω	□	€	Z	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Radio Times review:

"Dabney Coleman is one of the unsung heroes of Hollywood, but he has a role he can really get his teeth into in this gripping police thriller from the reliable In the Line of Duty strand. Coleman plays a serial abductor [sic] who begins a cat-and-mouse game with frustrated FBI man Timothy Busfield. The two leads are backed up by strong performances from Tracey Walter and Barbara Williams, and there's concise direction from Bobby Roth.
 *** "

"Crime drama based on a true story, starring Dabney Coleman. A ruthless kidnapper, who targets the children of the wealthy, taunts the FBI after each crime, playing a cat-and-mouse game with the agents on his trail. *** "

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "The Critics' Film Guide" or "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995"]

Not to be confused with the 1995 TV movie "**KIDNAPPED**" (from the R.L. Stevenson story) starring Armand Assante. A singularly dull-witted title for a TV cop movie that's no better and no worse than the general run. Coleman is an IRS agent and former secret serviceman who exploits his position to gain information on his intended targets, bailing accomplices out of jail to assist him in the kidnappings. FBI man Busfield is a separated father whose alienation from his own son Sam (!12) fires his determination to hunt down the culprit, whose kidnappees are all boys of about Sam's age. Coleman's motivation is purely profit, and the abducted boys are returned unharmed, against their parents' worst expectations, but as the net closes in he begins to eliminate his accomplices, and makes an explicit threat to snatch Busfield's own son.

Having missed the opening titles, I did not catch the name of the boy who plays Sam, but he is *stunning*, and the film frivols with a subplot about absentee dad re forging a relationship with son (and, to a much lesser extent, his wife). Cue then many touchy-feely scenes of Busfield putting Sam to bed, and the inevitable closing shot of a family reunited. Sam's wardrobe would be a prime exhibit for any future indictment of 90s American fashion designers – he bounces about the film (basketball his ruling passion) draped in various billowing maternity smocks and gargantuan "shorts", yet somehow still contrives to look beautiful. Whether these bloated fashions came about to smother a nation 50% of whom are clinically overweight, or the nation grew obese in a frantic effort to fill their cavernous clothes, is a moot point. That such fashions reinforce body shame and concealment would be hard to deny.

Coleman's two kidnap victims are Kevin Jasie (played by Jesse Stock) and Davy Furman Jr (played by Justin Garms), but neither has any significant scenes. As in so many kidnap films, the kids are mere cherished consumables which the parents are keen to recover. As individuals they have no more meaning to the film-makers than to their kidnapper. Toward the end Coleman runs unexpectedly into a third ransom candidate, Danny Lindstrom (Will Rothhaar), but the Feds are on him before he can spirit the boy from his home. Nothing else is known about any of the four featured boys, but doubtless most of them served an apprenticeship in US soaps or sitcoms.

See subject index under (but how did you guess?) **KIDNAPPING**.