

K graphic

Kids From 47a

UK TV series : 19 : dir. : A.T.V : ? x ? min
prod: : scr: Phil Redmund et al : dir.ph.:
Christine McKenna; Gaynor Hodgson; Nigel Greaves; Russell Lewis
Cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⚠	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
2785a	1.5	1	1	499	-	-	-	-	-	No	Unseen



Tonsilectomy ahoy

Source: The Golden Age of Children's Television

The Golden Age of Children's Tele-vision
review:

“Created by Charlotte Mitchell, **"Kids From 47A"** starred Christine McKenna as sixteen-year old Jess Gathercole, Gaynor Hodgson as her fourteen-year old sister Binny, and Nigel Greaves and Russell Lewis as her brothers Willy (twelve) and George (nine).

Following the death of their widowed mum, the kids, who lived at number 47A in a small block of flats, decided to look after themselves, but faced a constant battle to avoid being split up and put in the care of the local council.

However, the one thing they did have going for them was a cunning beyond their years - they certainly had more street cred than **"The Brady Bunch"**. Among the show's writers was a young Phil Redmond, en route to becoming the mastermind of **"Grange Hill"** and **"Brookside"**. ”

“ATV's **"Kids From 47A"** followed the trials and tribulations of the Gathercole family, four children left to run the home without adult help after the death of their widowed mother.”

[no listing in "Halliwell's Television Companion", "History of Television", "How Sweet It Was", "Into the Box of Delights - a History of Children's Television", "Television's Greatest Hits" or "25 Years of ITV - 1955-1980"]

No further information currently available. A tried and tested situation, children attempting to soldier on after (in Wilde's phrase) the careless loss of both parents in **"OUR MOTHER'S HOUSE"** (67), **"THE 14"** (with Jack Wild), **"ALL THE KIND STRANGERS"**, **"THE CEMENT GARDEN"** (92) and **"LA FRACTURE DU MYOCARDE"** (aka "Cross My Heart", 90) to name but a few. Perhaps unexpectedly, in most cases the situation is handled not as the ultimate family catastrophe, but as a childhood wish-dream of total autonomy, like **"LORD OF THE FLIES"** - without the flies.

When handled well, these films are an atypical celebration of children's competence and capacity for independence – a subversive notion in a world paying homage to “family values”. The freedom from adult authority is illusory and short-lived, of course. As in Nicholas Roeg's **"WALKABOUT"**, which treats with similar themes, there is always the inevitable trudge back to reality, where adults reign. But a seed is planted each time, whatever the writers may intend. Parents are not, after all, indispensable.

Russell Lewis played Winston at age 7, prey to sadistic public school headmaster Robert Hardy, in the early sequences of **"YOUNG WINSTON"** ('72), a fairly dire biopic all round. Nothing else is known of Nigel Greaves (presumably the boy in football strip overleaf), Christine McKenna nor Gaynor Hodgson.

See subject index under [ORPHANS / ADOPTION](#), [SIBLING HOUSEHOLDS](#) and [TV SERIES](#).