

Lawn Dogs

US / UK : 1997 : dir. John Duigan : Rank / Toledo : 100 min
 prod: Duncan Kenworthy : scr: Naoimi Wallace : dir.ph.:
[Mischa Barton](#)
 Sam Rockwell; Kathleen Quinlan; Christopher McDonald; Bruce McGill; Tom Aldredge;
 Eric Mabius

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Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001 review:

"Odd but intriguing story of the unlikely relationship that develops between a misfit kid [sic] who lives in an antiseptic, gate-guarded community and a drop-out gardener [sic again] who grew up in the area but has long been an outcast in the community. Sometimes uneasy mix of black comedy and social satire, but marked by good performances and a piquant sense of humour. **1½"

The Independent - 11/11/97 - news item:

"The actress too young to see her own film. Reservoir puppy: Eleven-year old Mischa Barton in a scene from "LAWN DOGS". Despite starring in the Certificate 15 film, she has been refused permission to attend its premiere at the London Film Festival tonight because she is too young. She will introduce the film at a West End cinema and then leave before reappearing at the end."

Radio Times review:

"A masterful tale of innocence abroad [sic] from director John Duigan. Sam Rockwell plays Trent, a lawnmower man for an exclusive Kentucky suburb, who strikes up a friendship with Devon (Mischa Burton), a new kid on the block recovering from a heart operation. Contains some violence and swearing, a sex scene and brief nudity. ****"

[* also contains sexual hypocrisy, social bigotry, spoilt children and bad parents, but we at the Radio Times don't bother warning you about stuff like that.]

"Drama set in rural Kentucky. Lonely ten-year old Devon, who lives with her socially-obsessed parents in an upscale housing development [sic!], strikes up a friendship with college drop-out Trent, who works as a lawn dog mowing the estate's grass. ****"

What in christ's name is an "upscale" housing development? Well allow me to translate into English.

The same ludicrous state of affairs has been encountered by many child actors of both sexes before Mischa Barton. Linda Blair was barred from the premiere of "THE EXORCIST", for example, but it was not the frightening scenes depicted on screen which threw her life off the rails for many years, but the tabloid hysterics and press harassment which followed in the wake of that massive commercial hit (a film seen by millions of cinemagoers in this country, and available on video for years, but now withdrawn from circulation as too potent even for adult audiences to view). Jodie Foster no doubt had similar trouble getting to see "TAXI DRIVER".

We await further details on the film itself.