

# Little Big League

US : 1994 : dir. Andrew Scheinman : Castle Rock : 119 min  
 prod: Mike Lobell : scr: Gregory K Pincus & Andrew Scheinman : dir.ph.:  
[Luke Edwards](#) .....  
 Timothy Busfield; John Ashton; Ashley Crow; Kevin Dunn; Jonathan Silverman;  
 Dennis Farina; Jason Robards; Wolfgang Bodison; Duane Davis

| Ref: | Pages | Sources | Stills | Words | Ω | 8 | ≠ | M | ♀ | Copy on VHS | Last Viewed |
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So what's with the two bats? That's cheating, right? Whoever heard of Tiger Woods swinging two clubs at once, or Andre Agassi playing with a tennis racket in each hand? Tisk, whatever became of sportsmanship?  
 Source: Empire

## Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001 review:

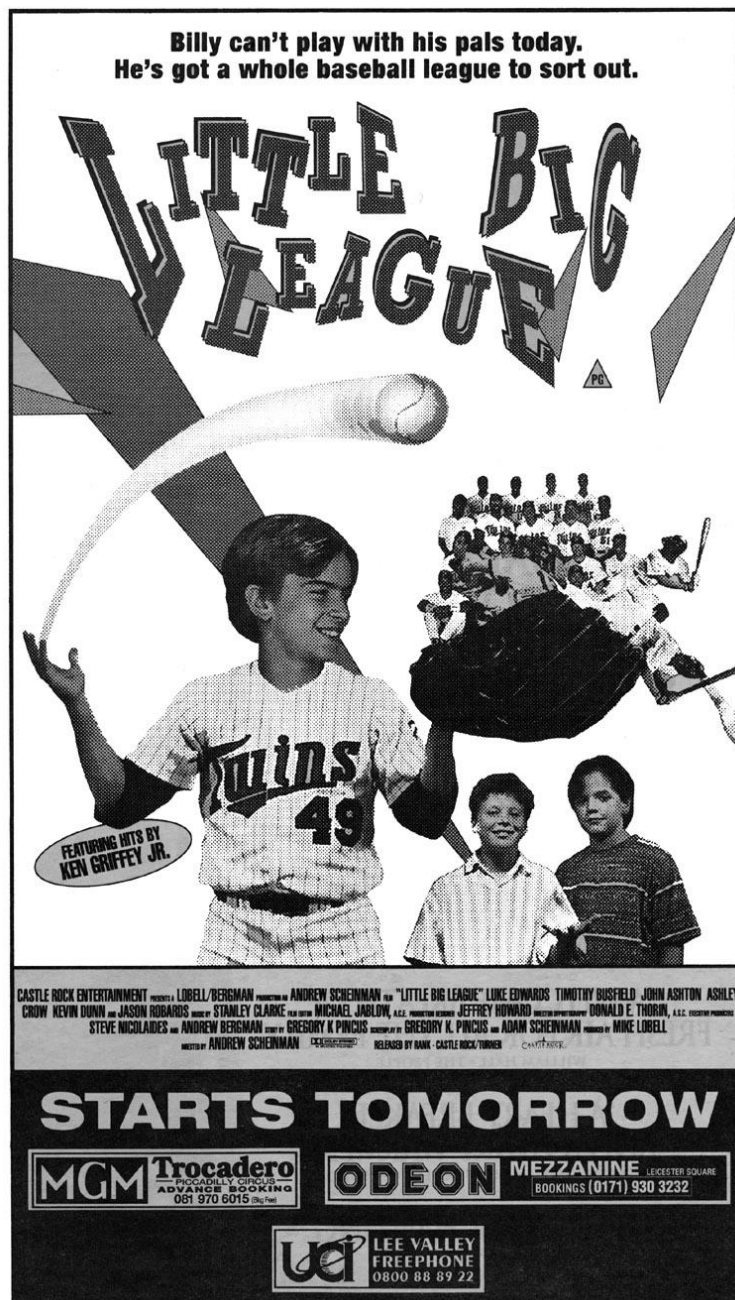
"A 12-year old boy inherits the Minnesota Twins from his grandfather, and decides to manage the baseball team himself. Could have and should have been a cute family movie, but it has no energy – and goes on forever. Special appearances by real-life major leaguers Ken Griffey Jr, Lou Pinella, Sandy Alomar Jr,

Tim Raines, Wally Joyner, and others. Directing debut for producer Scheinman. \*\* ”  
**NFT Bulletin** – July 1995 – review:

"This is fantasy baseball, except that it's not only about winning. When 12-year old Billy Heywood inherits ownership of a major league baseball team, the Minnesota Twins, he finds himself forced to dismiss the manager and take over the team himself. Somehow he has to divide his attention between school attendance

and baseball management. As a result, the Twins lose the next four games. What can

Billy do to gain their confidence? With



appearances from plenty of real-life star players and location shooting in the Minnesota Stadium, this film successfully conveys the appeal of baseball and at the same time tells an amusing story about growing up."

**Film Review 1994-95** Hollywood gossip note – but no review of the actual film:

"April 1994: ...A 17-year old extra on the movie "LITTLE BIG LEAGUE" sues star Timothy Busfield for sexual assault and

"fondling". \* Timothy Busfield, star of "LITTLE BIG LEAGUE", sues a 17-year old extra for false accusations of sexual assault and "fondling"..."

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide" or "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995"]

**Empire note:**

“Comedy. A 12-year old boy inherits a losing baseball team and surprisingly turns their bad luck around.”

**Film Review** – January 1995 – note:

“Kids baseball drama.”

**Radio Times notes:**

“Twelve-year old Billy Heywood inherits a baseball team from his grandpa (Jason Robards) and, oh boy, do you want to shove the precocious *[sic]* brat’s *[sic]* mitt *[sic]* straight in his face. If the guys are to win, he believes, they must discover the child within. Cue embarrassing capers.”

“Family comedy. Luke Edwards. \*\* ”

“...A 12-year old inherits a baseball team in **"LITTLE BIG LEAGUE"**...”

**Sunday Times** review:

“With **"LITTLE BIG LEAGUE"**, the yarn of a 12-year old boy whose wealthy grandfather

bequeaths him a major-league baseball team in his will, you can see what all the French are banging on about when they attack Hollywood’s cultural imperialism: why on earth should the average British kid have any interest in this mediocre, painfully slow movie crammed with obscure sporting statistics and incomprehensible discussions on baseball strategy?”

**The Guardian** note:

“Jolly but overlong newcomer about a kid managing a baseball team.”

**Daily Mirror** (?) video review:

“When will the Americans stop these movies about baseball and make one about soccer? That said, this is an engaging tale of a boy who inherits a team from his grandfather and decides to run it himself. \*\*\* ”

No further information currently available. It sounds like one of those films which began as a cute title, and the storyline was hatched afterwards. Despite a steady drizzle of films lionising the sport, baseball remains as impenetrable to European audiences as croquet is to Americans. Not that this has prevented every moron on the continent of Europe from sporting a baseball cap for the last decade or so. Everyone carries a surfboard but nobody has the least inclination to surf.

Luke Edwards played Fred Savage’s autistic younger brother in the lacklustre **"THE WIZARD"** (89), the eldest of Jamie Lee Curtis’ sons, Kes, in **"MOTHER’S BOYS"** (94), and was in **"GUILTY BY SUSPICION"** (90). His actual age is not known.

1994 saw a spectacular bumper crop from Hollywood in the archive’s direction, with – among others! – **"THE ADVENTURES OF HUCK FINN"** (Elijah Wood), **"AMERICAN HEART"**, **"A BRONX TALE"**, **"DENNIS THE MENACE"**, **"FREE WILLY"**, **"A HOME OF OUR OWN"**, **"JOSH AND S.A.M."**, **"JURASSIC PARK"**, **"KING OF THE HILL"**, **"LAST ACTION HERO"**, **"LITTLE BUDDHA"**, **"THE MAN WITHOUT A FACE"**, **"MRS DOUBTFIRE"**, **"A PERFECT WORLD"**, **"THE PIANO"**, **"ROOKIE OF THE YEAR"**, **"SEARCHING FOR BOBBY FISCHER"**, **"THE SECRET GARDEN"**, **"SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE"** and **"THIS BOY’S LIFE"**, and there were a number of quality foreign language titles to add to that heap.

Was it the last true gasp of boyhood-worship in mainstream American culture, or a random bubble in the ever-shifting fads of Hollywood? American cinema has never been a barometer of the public mind, for all its assiduous market-testing, but it does articulate attitudes the screenwriters *assume* to be generally held, or attitudes they deem to be “correct”, and so it acts as an intuitional mirror of the culture it serves. A close analysis of the juvenile roles in all these films would tell us much about the standing of the child, circa 1994.

All of which is a sight more interesting, let's face it, than baseball.

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