

Looking for Miracles

Canada TV : 1990 : dir. Kevin Sullivan : Disney : 104 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Zachary Bennett](#); [Noah Godfrey](#)
 Greg Spottiswood; Joe Flaherty

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	∞	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5479a	1.5	2	1	602	3	-	3	-	-	No	circa 1991



*A bit young to be having a "coming-of-age" thang, you might feel, but no, the cliché seems to work for ages 9-19. Zachary Bennett on the right, Noah Godfrey in the 1930s shorts.
 Source: Almost Angels (choirboy worship) website*

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

"The summer of 1935 marks the reunion of two brothers separated by poverty. A series of hardships force the brothers to become friends. Heartwarming family entertainment originally made for the Disney Channel. ***½"

Almost Angels website review:

"This is an inspirational coming-of-age story about two brothers who dream of a better life and struggle to find it during the course of one memorable summer.

At the height of the Depression in Canada, 16-year-old Ryan is determined to find work to finance his college education. Much to his dismay, he winds up as a camp counsellor who has to bring along his little brother, Sullivan. Being the head counsellor's little brother is pure torment for Sullivan. But his worst boy enemy at camp, "Ratface", eventually becomes his friend – after they discover how much they have in common. The RealVideo clip shows the first moments of non-violent talk between the two boys, initiated by Sullivan when he discovers that neither he nor Ratface had any parents come to camp.

Canadians make great movies, and this one not only illustrates what it is like to be poor, but also explores peer relationships and the rewards of true friendship. There is mild profanity [*sic*] – just the words kids usually say when adults are not around.

Actors: Sullivan = Zachary Bennett; "Ratface" = Noah Godfrey; Ryan = Greg Spottiswood · Filmed in Toronto, Haliburton, Minden and throughout Southern Ontario, Canada · Running Time: 104 Minutes · Stereo Sound · Walt Disney Home Video"

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "The Critics' Film Guide", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No mention of it in "*The Disney Films – 3rd Edition*" (95), nor for that matter in "*The Wonderful World of Disney Television – a Complete History*" (97), so we're off to a fine start. The Almost Angels website reviews a number of boy films not notably connected to choral music and, unusually, supplies a RealVideo clip of each, but that only goes to demonstrate there aren't even enough choirboy films to fill a website.

Sullivan (Zachary Bennett) sports short hair and braces, but so far as I can recall that was the only concession the film makes to a 1930s setting. It's a summer camp movie, and like all summer camp movies it feels honour bound to demonstrate some significant emotional journey while the kids are parked conveniently out of their parents' way.

I remember the scene where Sullivan gets his bottom paddled with a broom for subverting Ryan's "tidy scout" regime, so I guess we have to call that "broom abuse". Like "**BLESS THE BEASTS AND CHILDREN**" (72) – where **do** they dredge up those awful titles? – it reveals in passing how order used to be maintained in these child internment camps. Nothing else is known of Zachary Bennett, nor soulmate Noah Godfrey.

See subject index under **DEPRESSION ERA** (1930s settings), **DISNEY** and **SUMMER CAMP / SUMMER SCHOOL**.