

Majestät auf Abwegen

("His Majesty Goes a-Wandering")

W Germany : 1958 : dir. Robert A Stemmle :

: 92 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

Oliver Grimm; Michael Ande; Günter Hoffmann

Fita Benkhoff; Chariklia Baxevenos; Claus Biederstaedt; Agnes Fink

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	♂	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
2876a	2.5	2	1	739	3	-	-	-	-	No	unseen



Foto : Weisse / Melodie / Waynberg-Film / Ufa-Filmverleih

herzlichst
Oliver Grimm



in
• Majestät auf Abwegen •
nach dem Roman von Sinclair Lewis
" . . . König sein dagegen sehr "

Ufa / Film - Foto

Oliver
Reproduktion verboten

Source: Classic Movie Kids website

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

“Adaptation of Sinclair Lewis' likable book "Let's Play King", about a twelve-year old king and a famous child film star who both escape their worlds of devotion to duty in order to play at pirates. **1/2***”

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Oliver Grimm:

“Oliver's mother was the former UFA actress Hansi Wendler; his father, Hans Grimm, was a director, and in fact directed many of the boy's films. But his first lead, as "Niki", was in a film by Rudolf Jugert.

Oliver, with his happy yet vulnerable teddy-bear face – rather like a pocket Fischer-Dieskau – rapidly became a favourite of the German public, equally delighted to see him being mischievous or pathetic, bringing adults together in the manner of a male Shirley Temple, or humbling himself to the problems of life at street-level as a boy king in "**MAJESTÄT AUF ABWEGEN**". O.W. Fischer as a Shakespearean actor and Heinz Rühmann as a circus clown were among his many adoring screen fathers.

In spite of being everyone's dear little boy for nearly a decade, Oliver adroitly skirted the swamp of sickliness and never became over-cute. There was certainly nothing cute about his last child role, in the British film "**REACH FOR GLORY**", as a Jewish refugee from Vienna, dumped among schoolboy chauvinists in East Anglia. At the end of this first screen version of John Rae's novel "The Custard Boys" he lies dead in a coalyard, victim of a "mock execution" which went wrong.

So ended Oliver Grimm's career as a child star. But, after an educational pause, he returned to acting, and was seen in popular TV series like "**Derrick**" (75) and "**Dalli-Dalli**" (76).”

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Michael Ande:

“It was Julien Duvivier who discovered the curly-haired Michael Ande and put him in his Franco-German co-production "**MARI-ANNE**". Ande and Oliver Grimm (his junior by three and a half years, but earlier on the scene) were the two golden children of

German cinema in the Fifties. They were together in "**GRIFF NACH DEN STERNEN**", and again (with Günther Hoffmann) in R.A. Stemmle's "**MAJESTÄT**", a trio-adventure in which Ande plays the young King Maximilian II of Slovaria, Grimm a child film-star and Hoffman a hotel lift-boy. All three came well out of the romp.

In "**DAS HIRTENLIED**" Michael was a little goatherd, in the **TRAPP** films (sadly lacking the verve of "**THE SOUND OF MUSIC**") was the elder Trapp boy, and in "**DER SCHÖNSTE TAG MEINES LEBENS**" ended up as a Wiener Sängerknabe. In "**SKANDAL IN ISCHL**" he was an Archduchess's ailing grandson, but in "**DON VESUVIO**" died a noble death as a Neapolitan urchin. The sheer Peter-Pannishness of Michael Ande was well illustrated when at the age of 21 he played a quite convincing Jim Hawkins in a TV version of "Treasure Island": "**Die Schatzinsel**" (W Germany/France '66). His few cinema films in this period included "**VERDAMMT ZUR SÖNDE**" ('64). From 1976, after more TV work, he partnered Siegfried Löwitz in the long-running cop series "**Der Alte**".”

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Günter Hoffmann:

“This curly-haired blond, whose mother worked as a presser in Berlin, made a fine foil for the smaller Oliver Grimm in "**MEIN VATER, DER SCHAUSPIELER**" and "**MAJESTÄT AUF ABWEGEN**", but the fun ended in "**DIE BRÜCKE**", where he was one of Hitler's boy soldiers defending a doomed bridge. He appeared again in an Australian film of 1963, "**DIE LUSTIGEN VAGABUNDEN**".”

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Bloomsbury Foreign Film Guide", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. "*Let's Play King*" does **not** translate in German as "*König Sein Dagegen Sehr*", but that's how it was known there. Any film that teamed top German boy stars Oliver Grimm and Michael Ande will be of great interest to the archive. Grimm was 10, Ande (presumably playing the child star) was 13, and Hoffmann 14. Five years later Grimm enjoyed exposure to a broader audience in Philip Leacock's wartime story "**REACH FOR GLORY**", about the touching friendship between two refugee boys evacuated to the English countryside, one of whom (Grimm) a Jew, meets a tragic end. It was remade by the Children's Film Unit under the book's original title, "**THE CUSTARD BOYS**". Günter Hoffmann's earliest known appearance was in "**DAS FLIEGENDE KLASSENZIMMER**" ("The Flying Classroom", 54).

See subject index under **ARISTOCRACY / ROYALTY, CHILD PERFORMERS / CHILD STARS, RUNAWAYS / STOWAWAYS** and **SEAFARING / PIRACY**.