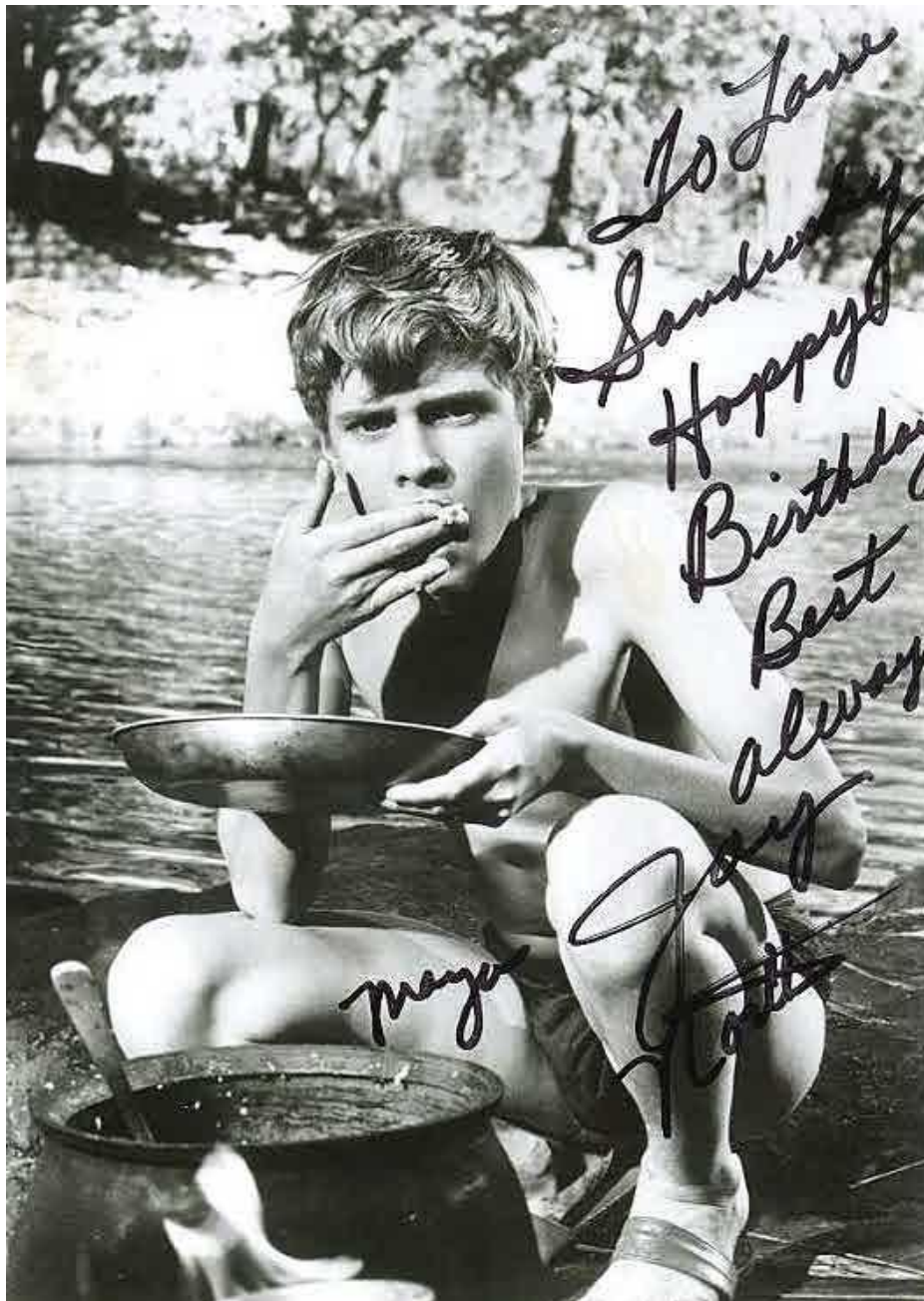


Maya

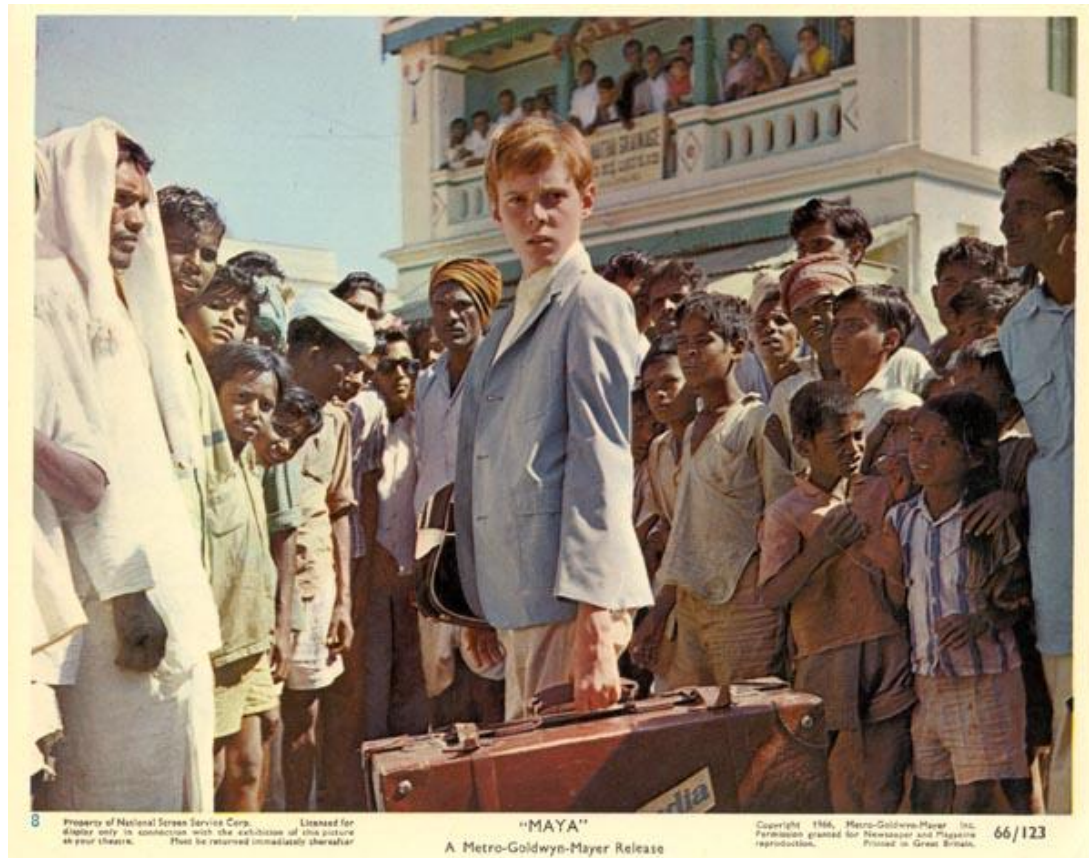
US : 1966 : dir. John Berry : M.G.M. / King Brothers : 91 min
 prod: Mary P Murray & Herman King : scr: John Fante : dir.ph.: Gunter Senftleben
Jay North; Sajid Kahn
 Clint Walker; I.S. Johar; Jairaj; Sonia Sahni

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⊗	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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All-American Jay North goes native in the torrid Indian jungle

Source: indeterminate website



"Say, is there a McDonalds round here someplace?"

Source: indeterminate website

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996 review:

"Silly juvenile jungle tale has young North temporarily losing respect for his big-game hunter father Walker, who has lost his nerve. Shot in Panavision. ** "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review – identical to above

Halliwell's Film Guide review

"A teenage American boy arrives in India to visit his disillusioned father, who finally comes to understand him only after he has run away. Good-looking but otherwise uninteresting animal drama which served as the pilot for a TV series."

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89 review:

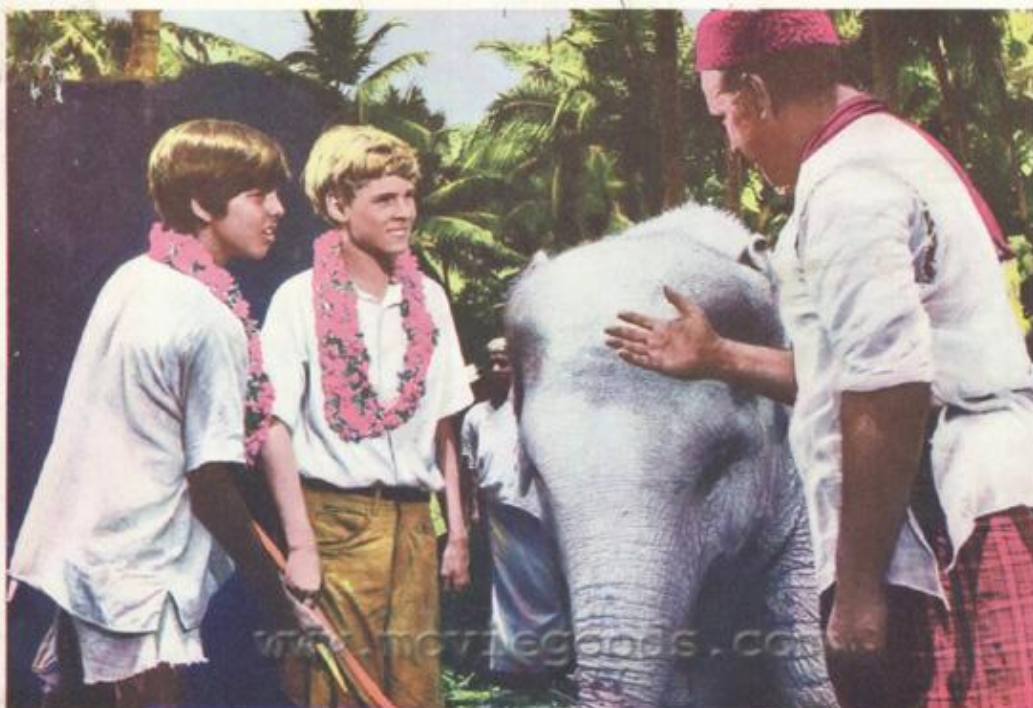
"Two boys team up to deliver a small sacred white elephant to a jungle temple in India. **1/2 "

The M.G.M Story comment:

"The central figures of "MAYA" were an elephant and her calf, in whose defense she was killed by tigers. Many customers found this hard to take: thou shalt not be cruel to elephants is a box office commandment. Clint Walker and Jay North played an American hunter and his son in India, and John Berry directed the King Brothers production there; script by John Fante based on Gilbert Wright's adaptation of a Jalal Din-Lois Roth story."

Movies Unlimited website review:

"Stunning nature photography highlights this tale of a boy who reunites with his hunter father in India and, after a disagreement, sets off on an adventure rife with danger. The boy befriends a young native on a mission to deliver two elephants to a sacred temple. Jay North, Clint Walker and Sajid Kahn star. 91 min. Category: Family / Live-Action. "



Watch out! That friendly native really wants to steal the priceless white elephant from Jay North and Sajid Kahn.

M-G-M presents
A KING BROS. Production

"MAYA"

TECHNICOLOR®
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Jay North has left home with Sajid Kahn to find the fugitive elephant Maya in the jungles of India.

M-G-M/ presents
A KING BROS. Production

"MAYA"

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Clint Walker has star billing – but parachutes out of the enterprise very quickly. The real stars are North, Khan and a well-scrubbed baby elephant, plus the lush location photography.
Source: Moviegoods.com website

Yahoo Movies website review:

“Action/Adventure. When Terry Bowen travels to India for a reunion with his hunter father, they quarrel and he runs away. He meets a native boy on a special mission and together they begin an extraordinary journey. MPAA Rating: Not Rated. Starring Clint Walker, Jay North, I.S. Johar, Sajid Kahn.”

Comment from **Child Loving** by James R Kincaid:

“ ... [Mark] Lester’s progress almost exactly duplicates that of Jay North, who had, slightly earlier, moved from cute-but-clothed exhibiting toward twelve-year-old nudity. North had been for years (1959-1963) television’s perfect Buster Brown clone, “**Dennis the Menace**”, an image slightly more active than Lester’s but physically identical. Like Lester, North progressed to spanking (by Lucille Ball in her “**The Lucy Show**” comedy series) and then, in a film called “**MAYA**” (1965), to full rearwards nudity.

In an extended scene, explained (weakly) in the narrative by a dunk in a river, North stands naked before a fire, rubbing his buttocks and talking, while the camera holds still, breathlessly, unable to believe its luck. After a time, a good long time, he wraps some cloth around him but, so the happy joke goes, is so inexperienced at doing so that he leaves a part of himself exposed. Guess which part.¹”



¹ To explain: Kincaid is producing evidence to support his contention that Western culture has always taken delight in images of the naked child – of the naughty child especially – and he cites many film scenes where the payoff shot entails a child getting spanked, or else revealing his naked bottom, or both. His argument is not without basis, but too laboriously made to take very seriously.

Source: *The M.G.M. Story*

Excerpt from **The Moving Picture Boy** entry on Jay North:

“...The end of “**Dennis**”, though, wasn’t the end of Jay. In the grotesque “**ZEBRA IN THE KITCHEN**”, he had the star part as a born-free animals’-libber, causing high-principled havoc when given a holiday job at a zoo – and releasing the animals. He was by now a handsome and earnest, not to say priggish, 12-year old, and a year later, in “**MAYA**”, he shared an Indian adventure with a boy called Sajid Khan. (This duly got developed into a TV series.)





Just Dennis *who..?*



Caption: "Sonia Sahni worries about Maya fighting a tiger. Will Clint Walker shoot the elephant or the jungle cat?"

Source: Moviegoods.com website

Hereafter, for all his fame and glamour, Jay North's career spluttered. He toured in stage plays, and made one or two ill-starred returns to filming: in "**JOYOUS SOUND**" (72) he was acted off the TV screen by Lassie, in

"**THE TEACHER**" (74, aka "The Seductress") was seduced and strangled, and in "**SCOUT'S HONOR**" (80) had little to do. In the meantime he had served briefly in the

Navy before becoming a prison guard and then a "nutritional consultant".

Reacting against what was clearly a traumatic childhood, North developed into a personable but under-employed and disgruntled young man of right-wing views: pro decent dress and capital punishment, anti long hair and rock 'n' roll."

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "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"]



The original marketing drive tried to sell the film as a TARZAN in civilian dress. Current video packaging sells it for what it is – a kids and animals movie.

Source: Amazon.com website

No further information currently available. Not to be confused with a 1949 French film of the same title, or a 1980 American film about a New York (female) teacher preying sexually upon a Puerto Rican (male) pupil – to borrow the prevailing terminology for such harmless affairs.

A sort of Hemingway adventure in short pants, "**MAYA**" was essentially a TV series pilot, though given a thunderously modest theatrical release. The two boys run away together and discover India in the process of bringing the orphaned elephant (whose name is Maya) to a Hindu temple, but this is merely the pretext for a lightweight children's travelogue. At least, unlike Dean Stockwell's "**KIM**" (50), during the shooting of which he never left the States, "**MAYA**" was shot entirely on location – Sri Lanka possibly standing in for India, as it did in several **TARZANS**, "**INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM**" etc, but I could be wrong about that. Sri Lanka was certainly the location for the children's TV series "**Elephant Boy**", which resembled this in its blandness of tone and lack of strong character development.

As with many made-for-children titles of this vintage, "**MAYA**" groans under the weight of winsomeness and gauche, wide-eyed excitement at life, but that is also its principle appeal to modern viewers. The two boys are quite uncontaminated by "street wisdom" or trendy youth catchwords, their scrapes and escapades devoid of all malice and macho strutting. Of course it isn't an honest reflection of the way boys were, even in the mid Sixties, but it does reveal how adults preferred to think of them. And whereas in "**Dennis**" Jay North had got by with just two expressions – astonished and simpering – here he throws himself manfully into a more physical performance. The follow-on TV series "**Maya**" starred the same two boys and elephant, but the plot had nowhere to go and it was soon told to pack its trunk.

Jay North was a very leggy 13 and, as Holmstrom implies, teetering on the brink of the awful abyss of adolescence. As Kincaid intimates, he also contrives to show the camera more of his body than is strictly required by the plot, but why not indeed? Perhaps he secretly pined for Johnny Sheffield roles.

Although he became a national celebrity through his title role in the sitcom "**Dennis**" (1959-63) and made numerous guest appearances on television, he had surprisingly few big screen

outings – in “**THE BIG OPERATOR**” (59), “**THE MIRACLE OF THE HILLS**” (59), “**PEPE**” (60) and “**ZEBRA IN THE KITCHEN**” (65). The truth, though, is that North was miscast as Hank Ketcham’s biped tornado (notwithstanding the fact that Ketcham himself chose North out of 500 contenders). Or at any rate, in deference to conservative American parenthood, the role was so heavily watered down for television as to be unrecognisable – TV’s “**Dennis**” was less an incurable mischief machine than an ingratiating but accident prone daddy’s boy. Like Mark Lester (and to an arguable degree Macaulay Culkin) after him, Jay North was more decorous than talented, and never in serious danger of becoming an actor. Nothing else is known of Sajid Kahn, though he apparently enjoyed a brief vogue as a teen celebrity through the TV series, a kind of Sabu for the sixties.

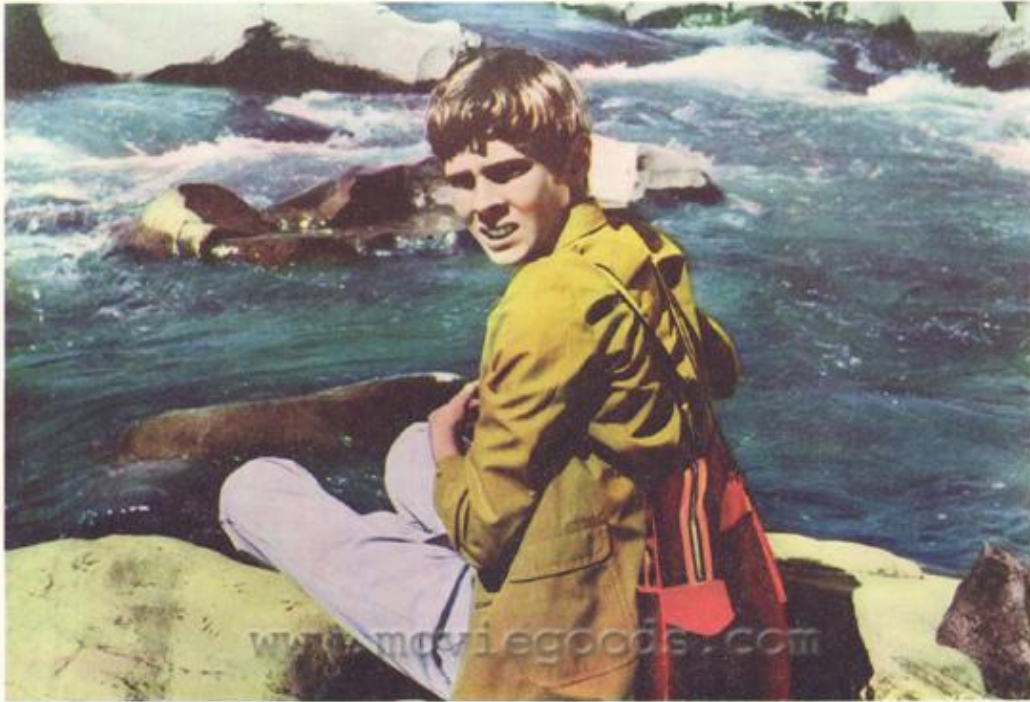
See the ensuing TV series, and also “[VISIT TO A CHIEF’S SON](#)” for a very similar story in an African safari setting. See subject index under [ANIMALS](#), [ASIA](#), **EPIC JOURNEYS** and **RUNAWAYS / STOWAWAYS**.





Source: Moviegoods.com website





With one last backward glance, Jay North leaves home to live with Maya, the elephant, in the rain-forests of India.

M-G-M. presents
A KING BROS. Production

"MAYA"

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Picture of Michael Rennie Screened for many years in accordance with the regulations of the National Film Board of Canada.