

Moonrise

US : 1948 : dir. Frank Borzage : Republic / Frank Borzage : 90 min
 prod: Charles F. Haas : scr: Charles Haas : dir.ph.: John L Russell
Johnny Calkins; Tommy Ivo
 Dane Clark; Lloyd Bridges; Henry Morgan; Rex Ingram; Gail Russell; Ethel Barrymore;
 Allyn Joslyn; Selena Royle; Harry Carey Jr

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	□	€	Z	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001 review:

"Uneven script does in this psychological melodrama of angry, alienated Clark and his plight after accidentally killing the banker's son who's been taunting him for years. But it's beautifully directed: check out stunning opening shot, and opening sequence. **½ "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"Sombre drama about a man who unwittingly causes another's death, and must flee the authorities with a devoted girlfriend. Good performances compensate for a mediocre script. **½ "

Halliwell's Film Guide review

"A murderer's son is driven into violence by memories and fears of his childhood. Broody melodrama set against a remote village and swamp background; not a very interesting story, but memorable detail. * "

"The story is told with a unity of mood, sombre and poignant, set by some impressionistic opening passages and sustained by the slow yet firmly compressed style and the strong, low-toned images." – **Gavin Lambert**

The Good Film and Video Guide review:

"Borzage, in his decline, is as controlled as ever but he uses many an arty effect for a story not worth telling in the first place: a boy, played by inexpressive Dane Clark,

accidentally kills another (Lloyd Bridges) who has taunted him, and is helped by several people while deciding whether to give him himself up: a backwoods deaf-mute (Henry Morgan), a philosophising negro (Rex Ingram), a teacher (Gail Russell) and a grandma (Ethel Barrymore). Allyn Joslyn is the vengeful sheriff. * "

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89 review:

"A man becomes a murderer during a brawl, flees, and his girl tries to persuade him to give himself up. Grim, moody drama of the backwoods country. *** "

The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television review:

"Dane Clark accidentally kills a man, runs; Ethel Barrymore, Lloyd Bridges do a little to help a dull one from director Frank Borzage. 77 "

The Time Out Film Guide review:

"Perhaps Borzage's greatest film, **"MOONRISE"**, a brooding tale of a murderer's son (Clark) driven to violence by others harping on his past, is the perfect answer to those critics who have derided Borzage as a "mere" romantic, a mere celebrator of the magic of love. Deeply melancholic, the film creates a sense of physical reality with its low-key lighting and harsh compositions that Borzage's lovers on the run cannot defeat: their "Seventh Heaven" in an abandoned mansion is only temporary."

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

“Being the son of a man hanged for murder isn’t easy, and Danny (Dane Clark) has grown up with quite a chip on his shoulder. Very melodramatic. ** ”

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

No further information currently available. Another childhood prologue film then, and possibly of very little interest to us. Johnny Calkins was 13. Best remembered as the youngest son in “**LIFE WITH FATHER**” (47), he was more often seen supporting better-known boy players like Dean Stockwell (“**THE BOY WITH GREEN HAIR**”, 48), Johnny Sheffield (“**ROUGHLY SPEAKING**”, 45) or Bobby Driscoll (“**THE SULLIVANS**”, 44). Wiry Tommy Ivo, 12, had a lead in “**THE TREASURE OF LOST CANYON**” (51). Principally a Western boy, he also had a significant part in one of the cheap and cheerful **BOMBA THE JUNGLE BOY** series – “**THE LOST VOLCANO**” (50) – in which a stout Johnny Sheffield took the chance to step into Johnny Weissmuller’s shoes, or loincloth, if that isn’t too lewd a metaphor. Calkins and Ivo were also seen together in “**SONG OF ARIZONA**” (46). Lloyd Bridges of course fathered a small platoon of sons who followed him into the business.

See subject index under **CHILDHOOD PROLOGUES** and **DISCRIMINATION / PREJUDICE**.