

Mr. Scoutmaster

US : 1953 : dir. Henry Levin : 20th Century Fox : 87 min
 prod: Leonard Goldstein : scr: Leonard Praskins & Barney Slater : dir.ph.: Joseph La Shelle
George "Foghorn" Winslow; Orley Lindgren; Jimmy Moss; Teddy Infuhr; Sammy Ogg; Jimmy Hawkins; Dee Pollock; Skip Torgerson
 Clifton Webb; Edmund Gwenn; Frances Dee; Veda Ann Borg; Dee Aaker; Mickey Little; Jon Gardner

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	☼	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001 review:

"Child-hater Webb becomes a scout-master in this airy film which will appeal mainly to kids. *** "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review – identical to above

Halliwell's Film Guide review:

"A TV personality wants to understand children and is persuaded to take over a scout troop. A star vehicle which starts promisingly enough in the **"SITTING PRETTY"** vein but quickly falls headlong into an abyss of sentimentality. Writers: Leonard Praskins & Barney Slater. "

The Films of 20th Century Fox review:

"In an effort to learn more about the ways of children, a writer (Clifton Webb) joins the Scout movement. His sophistication suffers some rude shocks in his conflicts with the boys, particularly a spoiled brat (Jimmy Moss), whom he crowns with a dish of ice cream. Another boy (George Winslow) brags about being the son of wealthy parents, but when it is revealed he is a child of poverty, he runs away. The scoutmaster persuades his boys to make a search, but when the boy turns up, the scoutmaster becomes lost. By the end of the story he has indeed learned something about the ways of children. Scr: Leonard Praskins & Barney Slater, from a book by Rice E Cochran. Produced by Leonard Goldstein."

Those Endearing Young Charms caption:

"George "Foghorn" Winslow had the part of a young Cub Scout trooper who had a propensity for telling tall tales. The film starred the late Clifton Webb."

[no listing in "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

[no listing in "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"]

NFT Bulletin – July 79 – review:

"Inimitably prissy Clifton Webb stars as the presenter of a kids' TV show with lousy ratings, who decides to find out what really makes children tick. He is recklessly invited to take charge of a Scout troop. The redemption of this alarming bare-kneed Mr Belvedere is undertaken by the no less inimitable "Foghorn" Winslow in an

outrageously sentimental tale. The 7-year old basso profundo, strange to relate, is a serious and genuinely moving creature."

No further information currently available. Clifton Webb honed his dry wit on impervious American children also in "SITTING PRETTY" ('47) and "CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN" ('50 - disappointingly flat). Winslow (real name George Wentzlaff) was 7. His other films include "MY PAL GUS" ('52, for which he won a Critics' Award), "GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES" ('53), "WILD HERITAGE" ('58) and he appeared regularly on the TV show "Dear Phoebe".

This was Orley Lindgren's last film. Aged 14, he was seen earlier in "HITLER'S CHILDREN" ('43), "ANCHORS AWEIGH" ('45), "UNDER MY SKIN" ('50) and many others. Teddy Infuhr, also not a name to conjure with, was now 17. In fact, he'd appeared in literally dozens of features in the 40s - to name just a few: "THE GHOST OF FRANKENSTEIN", "THE EGG AND I", "THE BOY WITH GREEN HAIR" and numerous "RUSTY" sequels. The films of Jimmy Moss included "THEY LIVE BY NIGHT" ('48), "STARS IN MY CROWN" ('49) and "LES MISERABLES" ('52), and of Dee Pollock "THE BLUE VEIL" ('51), "THE OLD WEST" ('52) and "IT GROWS ON TREES" ('52). Jimmy Hawkins was 12, seen elsewhere in "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE", "A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT", "DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS" and others. Hollywood was teeming with boy actors back then, it seems.

See subject index under BRATS / SPOILT KIDS, COMEDY, RUNAWAYS / STOWAWAYS and SCOUTS & SCOUTING.

No further information currently available

See also "**BADKONAK-E SEFID**" and "**BASHU**" - both recent Iranian films, and subject index under **ARAB WORLD / MIDDLE EAST**.