

My Side of the Mountain

US / Canada : 1969 : dir. James B Clark : Disney : 100 min
 prod: Robert B Radnitz : scr: : dir.ph.:
Teddy Eccles
 Theodore Bikel; Tudi Wiggins; Frank Perry; Peggi Loder

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Kbytes	Ω □ ♀ Z ♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5027	2½	7	3	2050	3 3 7 3 7	No	Pre 1990



Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide
 1996 review:

"Children should enjoy this tale about 13-year old Canadian boy who runs away from home to get closer to nature¹. Shot in Panavision. **½"

¹ Note how the TV guides below crib Maltin's words verbatim

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review – identical to above, adding:

"Adults may find the dialogue rather banal, but the premise is so endearing they should find the film well worthwhile. **½"

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89
 review:

"Nice film for children about a Canadian boy who leaves his family to live in the mountains alone. He meets a retired folk singer, played by Bikel, who helps him get adjusted and saves him when he is trapped during the winter. *** "

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

"File this in that all-too-small category of films that both you and your kids can enjoy. A 13-year old Toronto boy decides to prove his self-worth by living in a Quebec forest for one year with no resources other than his own wits. Gus the racoon steals the show, but you'll be charmed and entertained by the rest of the movie as well. Rated "G" ****"

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "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" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

Radio Times note:

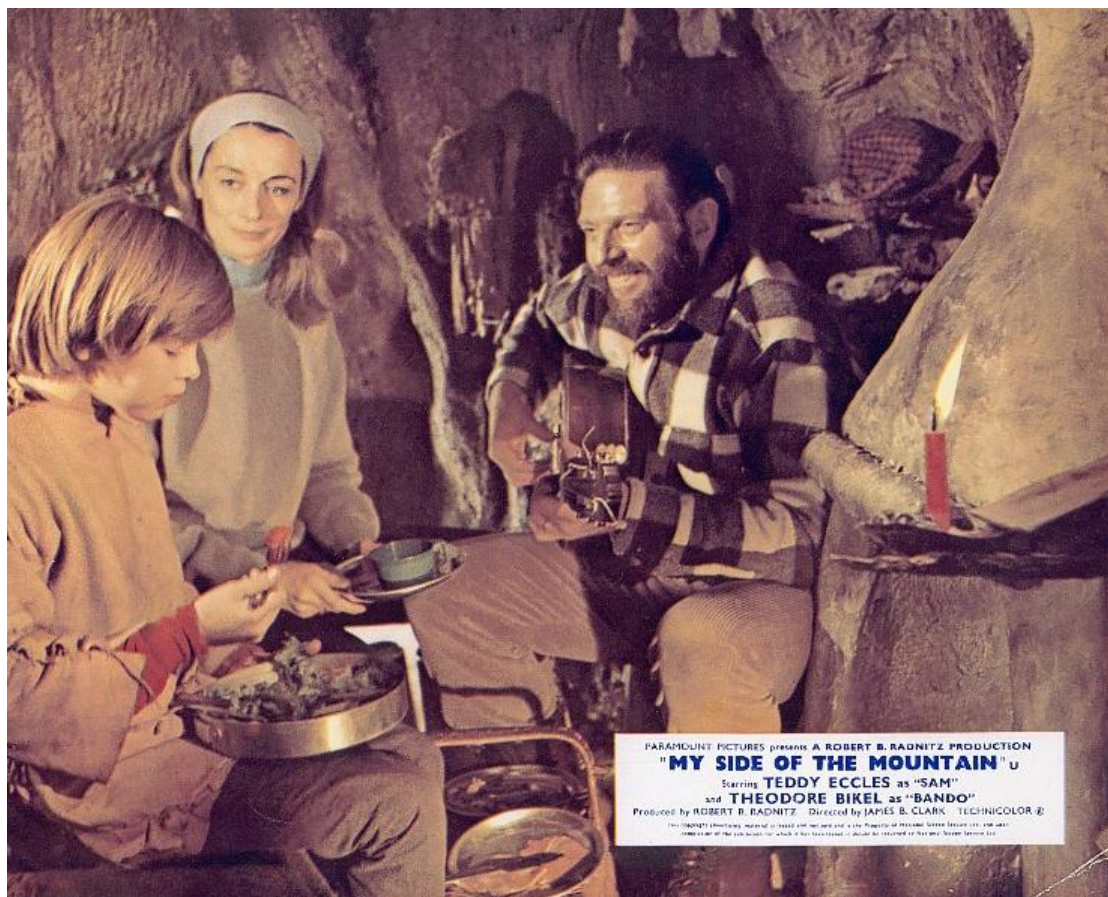
"Children's story of a 13-year old Canadian boy who runs away from home to get closer to nature."

What's On TV notes:

"A children's adventure about a young boy who runs away from home to get closer to nature."

"Children's adventure. A boy runs away from home to commune with nature."

"Adventure. A teenage boy runs away from his Canadian home to get close to nature."



The Moving Picture Boy entry on Eccles:

“The pleasant, sandy-haired Eccles had his only starring part – as a 13-year old botanist on a self-imposed survival course – in **"MY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN"**. Though Jean George’s novel hardly lent itself to drama, Teddy Eccles made a resolute figure of the junior Thoreau. He had in fact already had several years in films (his first commercial feature was at two months), and caught the eye

as the bottle-collecting boy of **"IN COLD BLOOD"**. He was often to be seen on TV. After twenty years in films and TV, Ted Eccles left the acting business. (A "dying role" in **"General Hospital"** seemed a fitting exit.) Instead he turned to the craft of special effects, then trailers and music videos. After working in turn for Paramount and Disney, he went into a partnership in 1986 to make promotional videos for new films.”

No further information currently available. It is certainly *treated* as a children’s film by the majority of reference sources – ie: ignored altogether – but as Maltin more correctly suggests, this was produced for family consumption and so, like 90% of Disney’s output, does not strictly qualify as a *children’s film*. However it’s certainly one of Disney’s more agreeable productions (thanks to being shot in Canada, no doubt).

Eccles himself was 13. A pity that Holmstrom does not identify the TV work he did, but his first film is listed as **"CIMMARON"** in 1960, followed by **"THE CROWDED SKY"** (60), **"MY SIX LOVES"** (62) and **"THE FAMILY JEWELS"** (65 – a Jerry Lewis toothache with Donna Butterworth), but clearly this was his only major performance. That does not diminish our interest, of course – many of the cinema’s most riveting child performances - particularly in continental films - came from boy and girl actors never seen again.

See subject index under **CAMPING, DISNEY, SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS**, and possibly **RUNAWAYS / STOWAWAYS**.