

The Outlaw's Son

US : 1957 : dir. Lesley Selander : United Artists : 89 min
 prod: Howard W Koch : scr: Richard Alan Simmons : dir.ph.:
[Joseph Stafford](#)
 Dane Clark; Ben Cooper; Lori Nelson; Ellen Drew; Eddie Foy III; Charles Watts;
 Cecile Rogers; John Pickard; Robert Knapp; Les Mitchell

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With the best of intentions no doubt, an aunt decides to separate father from son, but the future lives of others do not conform to our neat plans, do they?
 Source: The United Artists Story

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide
 1996 review:

"Clark is most earnest in this modest Western about an outlaw and the son he deserted years before. ** "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"Richard Alan Simmons adapted Clifton Adams' novel for producer Howard Koch. Cooper is bandit Clark's son, who has the inevitable psychological problems growing up in his father's shadow. He becomes a deputy sheriff, but ultimately joins a bandit gang because, on account of his father, he is still shunned by many upright citizens. Then Clark

returns to save his son's life. An entertaining Western. **½ "

The United Artists Story review:

"In order to protect "THE OUTLAW'S SON" from his father's bad influence, his aunt pins a crime on the outlaw to keep him out of the way. Ten years later, the 22-year old son learns of his aunt's action and starts robbing stagecoaches with his father's former associates. The father returns to save his son from a life of crime, but dies in the process. Thus the uninspiring comment of the Richard Allan Simmons screenplay (from the novel "Gambling Man" by Clinton Adams), directed with smooth efficiency by Lesley Selander for producer Howard W Koch. Dane Clark (in his last movie for 13 years) was appropriately dour as the father. Ellen Drew (in her final film) was

good as the protective aunt, and Joseph Stafford (aged 12) and Ben Cooper (aged 22) played the title role touchingly. Charles Watts, Lori Nelson, Cecile Rogers, Eddie Foy III, John Pickard, Robert Knapp and Les Mitchell took secondary roles in this no more than secondary movie."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Video-cassette 1988-89", "A Pictorial History of the Talkies", "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. Redemption was one of the core themes of the Western, even if very often, as typified by John Ford's "**THE SEARCHERS**", the final resolution suggested that the leopard cannot change his spots, much as he might wish to. The film "**MOONRISE**" (48, with Johnny Calkins and Tommy Ivo) told a similar story, in which the son of a convicted murderer is goaded throughout his boyhood until he inadvertently kills one of his persecutors in a fight and becomes a fugitive from justice himself. Nothing else is known of Joseph Stafford. He's not listed in *The Moving Picture Boy*.

See subject index under **CHILDHOOD PROLOGUES** and **WESTERNS**.