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The Red Hand Gang

US TV serial : c1978 : dir. : ? x ? min
prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Matthew Laborteaux](#)
Adult cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ € Z ♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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The Moving Picture Boy entry on Laborteaux:

"This dark, handsome, intelligent boy played dark, handsome, intelligent boys: more remarkable than it might seem, since he had been adopted by the Laborteaux couple as a nine-month old baby with grave physical and mental handicaps which included autism and a hole in the heart. All these, through love and devotion, he triumphantly overcame. In the mid-1970s Matthew was for some time a regular in the popular TV series "The Little House on the Prairie", and had the first lead in the serial "The Red Hand Gang".

In his later teens, he was the whizzest of the "Whiz Kids" (TV series 83), and his technological genius led him into deep waters in "DEADLY FRIEND" (86) when he fitted an

electronic brain into a brain-dead girl, who then turned nasty. Matthew's "elder brother", Patrick Laborteaux (also adopted at nine months, and also overcoming appalling handicaps) proved a busy and gifted actor too."

[no listing in "The Golden Age of Children's Television", "Halliwell's Television Companion", "History of Television", "Into the Box of Delights - a History of Children's Television", "Television's Greatest Hits" or "25 Years of ITV - 1955-1980"]

No further information currently available. Matthew Laborteaux, he of the "tom tit's bottom" mouth, would have been 12 in 1978. His film appearances seem to have been predominantly in forgettable (and forgotten) TV movies – "BRAVO TWO" (76), "A CIRCLE OF CHILDREN" (76 – with adoptive brother Patrick), "PAPA AND ME" (76), "KING OF THE GYPSIES" (78) – but "Little House on the Prairie" has enjoyed a prolonged afterlife on cable TV.

See subject index under **SERIALISATIONS** (pending further details).