

Richard Burton's A Christmas Story

UK TV : 1991 : dir. : 60 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
 Dewi Thomas [d]; Hefin Rees
 Adult cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Kbytes	Ω	□	€	Z	⊗	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
3220a	1½	1	1		3	-	-	-	-	No	Unseen

[first broadcast 24/12/91]



Dewi Thomas (left) as Burton, with Hefin Rees

Source: What's On TV

What's On TV feature note:

"Christmas must have been a lavish affair when Richard Burton became a big star. But he never forgot the way in which he celebrated the festive season in Pontrhydyfen, the tiny Welsh mining community where he grew up - and he wrote a short story about it, which has now been made into a heartwarming tale. It's the first TV role for Dewi Thomas, who plays the actor as an eight-year old (Dewi is pictured, left, with Hefin Rees as Burton's schoolfriend) - even though he has little idea who Richard Burton was. "My mother said he was the man in 'WHERE EAGLES DARE'" he says, "I like that film, but not as much as I like rugby."

"A dramatised version of Richard Burton's only published written work. Set in the thirties in a south Wales mining village, this largely autobiographical story is a tribute to the elder sister who brought him up."

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "The Critics' 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. See also "**A Child's Christmas in Wales**" (94), in which Dylan Thomas reminisces on a Welsh Christmas between the wars, or "**HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY**" (41) for a prime Hollywood evocation of growing up in an impoverished Welsh mining community. "**WHERE EAGLES DARE**" (66) doesn't quite fall within the remit of this archive, but has an anecdotal interest: so the story goes, Burton's young son complained that dad never made any films *he* would be interested in seeing. Burton thought it fair comment, and agreed to make the Alistair MacLean tale of wartime derring-do to keep his son happy. True or not, it's a nice story. Nothing else is known of Thomas or Rees.

See subject index under **AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL TITLES, CHRISTMAS** and **DEPRESSION ERA (1930s SETTINGS)**.