

13 Ghosts

US : 1960 : dir. William Castle : Columbia : 88 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
 Charles Herbert
 Donald Woods; Martin Milner; Jo Morrow; Rosemary DeCamp; Margaret Hamilton;
 John Van Dreelen

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Kbytes	Ω □ ∅ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
3406a	3½	6	4	3	- - - -	No	Unseen



"Are you trying to offer me a **bribe**, sonny?"

Source: indeterminate website

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide
 1996 review:

"Typically tongue-in-cheek Castle spook opera, about nice, all-American family (with children named Buck and Medea!) that inherits a haunted house. Plenty of chills and chuckles, with Hamilton cleverly cast as a sinister housekeeper. TV prints run 85 minutes, minus footage of Castle introducing "Illusion-O" - movie patrons were given "ghost viewers" enabling them to see (or not see) the spirits.
 **1½ "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"Routine thriller which loses its greatest strength on TV. In the cinema you got glasses with which you could discover ghosts in certain scenes. Reasonably interesting, but not world-shaking. ** "



Spooky business ahoy! He's got his ouija board out

Source: indeterminate website

Halliwell's Film Guide review:

"A penniless scholar inherits a haunted house. Childish thriller for which the audience was issued with a "ghost viewer" (anaglyph spectacles) so that they could see the "spirits". The gimmick was called "Illusion-O". "

Movies on TV (1987) Review:

"A thoroughly gimmicked horror film. Mild entertainment, as a professor and family move into a haunted house. ** "

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

"Lighthearted horror tale of an average family inheriting a haunted house complete with a creepy old housekeeper (Margaret Hamilton) who may also be a witch, and a secret fortune hidden somewhere in the place. William Castle directs with his customary style and flair. Pretty neat. *** "

The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television review:

"You may be forgiven for thinking the witch from **"THE WIZARD OF OZ"** is haunting this old house; it's Margaret Hamilton, who played the part in the MGM classic, made up by director William Castle for the housekeeper here as close to her original part as he could get away with without sacrificing all disbelief. It's that kind of movie, stopping just this side of spoof to stay spooky. A professor moves into this old place and it's got ghosts and treasure. How his family discover both is the plot. 7 "

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Herbert:

“Charles Herbert Saperstein was a square-faced little boy with some droll expressions and tones of voice, good value in films of the late Fifties. He made his bow in 1953 on TV’s **"Half Pint Panel"**, and was later active on the stage, where he earned an Emmy nomination for his performance as a blind child in a play called "The Miracle Hour". After 1960 Charles Herbert made one or two more appearances in TV series like **"The Twilight Zone"** and **"The Outer Limits"**, but not much more.”



Sometimes you just have to slug a kid before he'll stay put for the night...

Source: indeterminate website

Campy horror films were in vogue in this period, chiefly characterised by over-ripe performances from Vincent Price or Boris Karloff, else pepped up with William Castle's fairground gimmicks – a skeleton sweeping over the audience, seats rigged to give small electric shocks, audiences insured against dying of fright, and so forth.

Charles Herbert is listed first in the cast in all the above sources, so his part in the proceedings must be a central one, though you'd hardly think so, since his character isn't mentioned in any of them. Here 12, he played one of Doris Day's and David Niven's four sons in **"PLEASE DON'T EAT THE DAISIES"** the same year, and starred in the functionally-titled (and stultifyingly dull) **"THE BOY AND THE PIRATES"**. Earlier he was seen as Cary Grant's harmonica-playing youngest in **"HOUSEBOAT"** (58) and had small parts in **"THE COLOSSUS OF NEW YORK"** (58) and **"THE FLY"** (58), although his first screen appearance was at 6 in **"THE LONG, LONG TRAILER"**.

See subject index under **GHOSTS & HAUNTINGS, TREASURE HUNTS** and possibly **WITCHES & WIZARDS**.



Boys don't spook easy – and that's a fact

Source: indeterminate website
