

An Orphan Boy of Vienna

(original title unknown) [**Singende Jugend**]

Germany : 1937 : dir. Max Neufeld

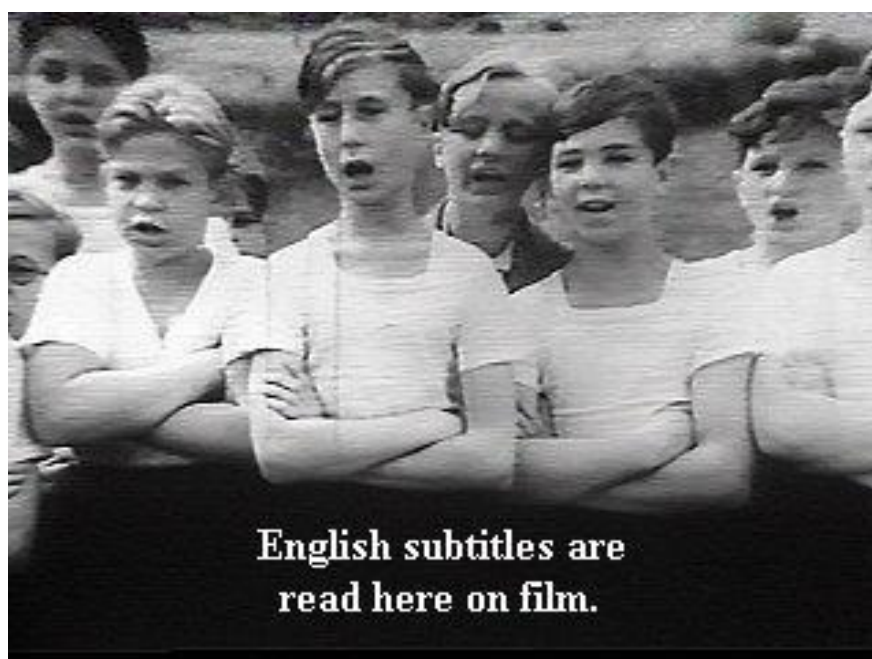
: 90 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

Wiener Sangerknaben (Toni, Loisl, Hansl)

Ferdinand Materhofer; The Vienna Maenner Gesang Verein; Hans Olden; Julia Janssen

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω 8 ≠ M ☼	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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The orphan of the title is the blond peeking through at the back

Source: Almost Angels website

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

"The only reason to see this hokey tearjerker about a boy who struggles to adjust to life in a German orphanage is the presence of the famous Vienna Boys' Choir, accompanied in several performances by the Vienna Philharmonic. In German with English subtitles. ** "

Almost Angels website review:

"This movie will be of interest mainly to boy choir historians and serious collectors. It was produced in 1936 by a company operating in Vienna and Amsterdam.

Toni, who does not remember his dead mother, gets kicked out by his wicked stepfather. He is rescued by Joseph Blueml, a street musician who has previously lived alone in an old Vienna shack. Herr Blueml quickly recognizes Toni's talent for singing, and sneaks him into the Vienna Choir Boys' institute. (See picture above – Toni is the boy without a white shirt.)

The film follows Toni as he is placed in Choir #3 and strives to fit in with boys who have biological parents. Sister Maria becomes both a "mother figure" and a temporary problem for him – when he is accused of stealing a 1000 AS note. There are majestic scenes in the Austrian mountains where the boys have a

summer camp. The choir sings and travels in their blue sailor suits, very similar to today's uniform.

In our video clip, a high official suddenly appears on the playground, and the boys are quickly gathered to sing for him. Toni "blends in" with the boys and is "discovered" not only being there but singing well. Difficult to believe that Toni already knew this song? Sure – but remember this was 1936. The print is in fair condition, considering that it is now 64 years old. The subtitles are in white, making them difficult to read at times. As I watched these boys I could not help but wonder if some of them wound up in German armies after Hitler absorbed Austria a few years later.

A guest of this page informed us on 11/28/00 that this video is once again on public sale – at a company called Audio Forum. They want a hefty price of \$59.95 for the video, however. You may obtain more information at their E-MAIL address. Length: 87 minutes."

CVMC video retail/rental website review:

"Once orphaned Toni (Toni), about eleven, is fired from his job by his cruel master, a poor musician who makes his living singing on street corners befriends and "adopts" him. Soon, it is learned that the lad has a beautiful voice, and his older friend is so inspired by the find that he takes Toni to a prestigious school and home for boy singers, attempts to get him there enrolled.

Fate has it that he is accepted, and for a short while, Toni is in heaven, doing what he likes best, having found surrogate parents in the musician and a nun who mothers the boys in

the choir. Yet, trouble occurs when a substantial sum of money comes up missing and our young hero is pinpointed at the scene of its disappearance. Is Toni to be condemned as a thief, tossed back out onto the streets, or might the true source of the vanished cash be found?

A warm little film that has been compared to **"THE SOUND OF MUSIC"** and is full of some great music if you appreciate boy choirs. The actual Vienna Choir Boys star; Toni was truly a member. If you wish to learn more about the Vienna Boys' Choir and other boy singers, visit Leolo's Boy Choir and Boy Soloist Directory.

Rated NR: no questionable content

Language: German (with English subtitles)

Though the subtitles are for the most part decent, they are sometimes cut off a bit by the bottom of the screen; a small portion of the dialogue is not subtitled, but the film can easily be followed. This is an older print which includes speckles and minor "black-outs".

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "Bloomsbury Foreign Film Guide", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "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"]

No further information currently available. Without the proper title it's not possible to identify who played the boy. Of interest also as a representative of the kind of film Nazi Germany was actually producing for domestic consumption, since audiences didn't react too enthusiastically to more overt propaganda tracts like **"HITLERJUNGE QUEx"** [qv]. Another film shambled together around performances by the Vienna Boys Choir (before political correctness diluted it with Vienna girls) was Disney's **"ALMOST ANGELS"** (62) with Sean Scully and Vincent Winter, also **"DER SCHONSTE TAG MEINES LEBENS"** (Austria 57) starring Michael Ande. For additional discussion on these (beyond the material already incorporated in their respective archive entries) and other choirboy-related topics, visit the Almost Angels website. Sailor suits are not obligatory.

See subject index under **MUSIC / YOUNG MUSICIANS** for other choir recitals and choir-related titles, and under **BOARDING SCHOOL / PUBLIC SCHOOL**, **ORPHANS / ADOPTION**, **SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS** and **STEPMOTHERS / STEPFATHERS**

