

Spriditis

("Tom Thumb")

U.S.S.R. (Latvia) : 1985 : dir. Gunars Piesis :

: ? min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

[Ronalds Neilands](#)

Adult cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω	□	≠	Z	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Excerpt from **The Moving Picture Boy** entry on Indars Lacis, an earlier Latvian boy actor:

"...Eight years later [after "*PUIKA*" in 1977], "**SPRIDITIS**" ("Tom Thumb") was a kind of fairy tale in which a brave but undersized Latvian boy travels the world in search of the Happy Land of his imagination, only to discover in the end that Happy Land is the very home he had left behind. Gunars Piesis' fine film won prizes at the Gidron and Buenos Aires festivals, greatly helped by the irresistible eagerness of Ronalds Neilands (born in Riga in 1975)."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "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. Similarities with "**THE BLUE BIRD**" and "**THE WIZARD OF OZ**" will be obvious, but a recent American fable in very similar vein (which bombed with critics and public alike) was "**NORTH**" (94), in which Elijah Wood as the boy of the title travels the world in search of his "ideal" parents. It's hard not to equate such edifying children's stories with the mediaeval church discouraging the peasantry from questioning their lot by the promise of "jam tomorrow". The underlying moral message – be content with what you're given – seems about the same.

See subject index under **EASTERN EUROPE / SOVIET BLOC, FANTASY / FAIRY TALES / FOLK TALES** and possibly **GIANTS & LITTLE PEOPLE**.