

K graphic

The Strange Case of the Disappearance of Adelaide Harris

UK TV serial : 19[79] : dir. [Paul Stone] : BBC : ? [6] x ? min
prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
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Cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω	□	⌘	Z	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Another first for British children's television – the split-screen synchronised costume spanking!

Source: The Movie and TV Spanking Page



The Movie and TV Spanking Page comment:

“A series made by the BBC in the late 70’s. Two mischievous 11-year old boys, Bostock and Harris, borrow Harris’ baby sister Adelaide as part of an experiment (they want to see if she will be taken and raised by wolves!). The baby is taken by someone else and is placed in an orphanage. The series deals with the boys’ efforts to get the baby back without being caught and punished... They are caught, and what follows is probably one of the better OTK boy spanking scenes ever filmed. After they are punished, the boys meet at one of their favourite places to commiserate and grumble about adult injustice. Bostock absent-mindedly leans back against a tree and then draws sharply away, rubbing his still tender bottom.”

[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. Ah, but what more could anyone conceivably want to know! Well, the identity of the players would be a start. Or the period it’s set in. The only thing to remark about the ceremonial come-uppance meted out here to the culprits is that the new puritanism enveloping children would make such a sequence inconceivable in any children’s serial today, regardless of what period it’s set in. To portray bottom-smacking as a comedy payoff for incorrigible rascals would be very “off message” now. The Bostocks and Harris’s of our times are merely kept indoors as a punishment – absurd enough in a culture where children are so seldom let out on the streets unaccompanied to start with.

The storyline vaguely recalls Philip Leacock’s 1953 film “**THE KIDNAPPERS**”, remade for TV in 1990 as “**THE LITTLE KIDNAPPERS**”, in which two small boys, denied a dog by their impoverished NovaScotian grandfather, find a baby and keep it secret as a pet.

See subject index under **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, HISTORY, KIDNAPPING, RASCALS AND SCALWAGS** and **SERIALISATIONS**.