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Tom's Midnight Garden

UK TV serial : 19 † : dir. : BBC : 6 x 30 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
Jeremy Rampling
 Adult cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	☠	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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[† repeat broadcast in 1991]

Radio Times notes:

“A six-part children's drama. Written by Philippa Pearce.

- 1 : Tom is expecting a boring summer holiday.
- 2 : Tom (Jeremy Rampling) wonders about the connection between the magical garden and the grandfather clock.
- : Tom (Jeremy Rampling) finds a world beyond all imaginings.”

TV Quick note:

- “6: Tom skates out of his garden for good.”

What's On TV note:

- “Drama.
: Tom returns to the garden and finds it
dark and threatened by a thunder-
storm.”

Reader's letter to **What's On TV:**

"I wish children's television would show more drama, especially ghost and adventure stories. I really enjoyed the recent series **"Tom's Midnight Garden"** on Children's BBC, and I love **"Children's Ward"** on ITV. These sort of dramas are much better than cartoons."

– E. L. Tooley (12), Heaton Mersey, Manchester



Jeremy Rampling comes unstuck in time, and finds himself a ghost in someone else's present day.
Source: indeterminate TV guide

No further information currently available. Rampling eh? No relation to Charlotte, I guess?

Having recently viewed the 1998 feature version with Anthony Way, the plot is now clear, and it does seem to be the kind of story which tells better in serialised form than as a single film – a very traditional children's tale in every sense, with an old house, a child alone, a secret portal only the child knows, friendly ghosts and distant parents. Even without having read the source novel or watched this TV version, it's clear at once that Jeremy Rampling is better cast in the central role (Anthony Way, though prettier, was simply too old, and not especially convincing in a period setting).

See several versions of "THE SECRET GARDEN", and subject index under **SERIALISATIONS**.

See also "**BADKONAK-E SEFID**" and "**BASHU**" - both recent Iranian films, and subject index under **ARAB WORLD / MIDDLE EAST**.