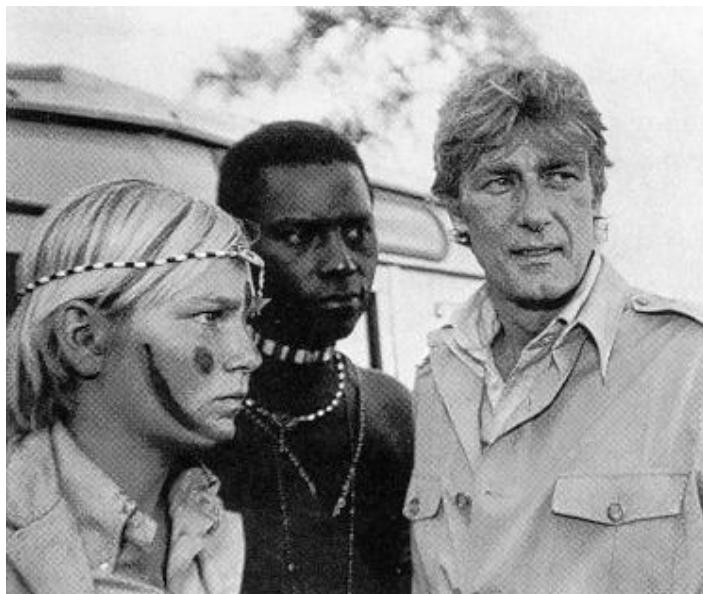


Visit to a Chief's Son

US : 1974 : dir. Lamont Johnson : United Artists : 92 min
 prod: Robert Halmi : scr: Albert Ruben : dir.ph.:
[John Philip Hogdon](#); [Jesse Kinaru](#)
 Richard Mulligan; Johnny Sekka; Chief Lomoiro; Jock Anderson

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω	□	€	Z	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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An ethnology field trip dressed as adventure Source: United Artists Story

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide
 1996 review:

"OK family drama about a self-centred father and son who become humanised on an African safari. **1/2 "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review - identical to above, except that it changes "OK" for "Good"

Halliwel's Film Guide review:

"An American anthropologist and his son hope to film the rituals of an African tribe. Minor adventure film with a happy resolution, based on a photo-montage by the producer, a "Life" photographer. Shot in Panavision."

The United Artists Story review:

" "VISIT TO A CHIEF'S SON" was based on "Life" magazine photographer Robert Halmi's photo montage story of life among the Masai tribe in Kenya. Produced, but not photographed, by Halmi, it was an enter-taining anthropological and ecological off-the-beaten track movie. Most of its interest lay in the well-integrated wildlife scenes and the depictions of the tribe played by members themselves, rather than the pompous discussions in Albert Ruben's screenplay on "primitive" vs "civilised" society, represented by an American anthropologist (Richard Mulligan) and a Western-educated Masai (Johnny Sekka). Wisely, director Lamont Johnson concentrated on the friendship between the American's teenage son and the chief's son, played with charm by amateurs John Phillip Hogdon and Jesse Kinaru."

[no listing in "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", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]



Frame grabs of the skinny dipping scene – itself all too redolent of a Weissmuller/Sheffield underwater sequence. Merely to film such an innocuous interlude today would entail breaking **several** federal laws in the US, such is the level of hysteria and puritanism on the question of child nudity. Source: unidentified website

Richard Mulligan is very out of place in this whipped air piece, which has the look of a TV pseudo-documentary, about a boy's symbolic "coming-of-age" on vacation with his remote father, when he (John Philip Hogdon, +/- 13) takes off with the young son of a tribal chief (Jesse Kinaru) on impromptu safari. The tribe are Masai, the legendary lion hunters. While the film does strive to be PC (before such conventions became universal), it can't quite shake off the condescension of earlier "discovering the real Africa" movies, and finally resorts to that hoary standby of umpteen **Tarzan** pictures when the two boys, sitting despondently at a waterhole, glance excitedly left and right off camera to conspicuous cut-ins of every species of wildlife known to man - rhino's, giraffe, penguins, killer whales.. all tramping about the same waterhole. Pull the other one, Cheetah. The personal conflict between father and son, cause of much heart-searching earlier on, resolves miraculously into nothing on the boy's safe return from this jaunt. A nude swimming scene en route - "innocent boys at play" - may present terrors to any television company thinking of screening it in today's paranoid climate. Nothing else is known of John Philip Hogdon or Jesse Kinaru.

See subject index under **AFRICA** – but scarcely under **EPIC JOURNEYS**.