

# Die Welt in Jenem Sommer

( "The World That Summer" )

W German TV : 1980 : dir. Ilse Hoffmann : WDR

: ? min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

[Jan Schwarzbauer](#); [Jörg Doleh](#) .....

Adult cast unknown

| Ref: | Pages | Sources | Stills | Words | Ω | □ | ≠ | Z | ⚡ | Copy on VHS | Last Viewed |
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*Moral indignation is a luxury we can all afford from the safety of retrospection. Those who lived in Germany in the Nazi period generally found lofty principles beyond their means, and children –as always – were a keen focus of The New World Order.*

*Source: The Moving Picture Boy*

**The Moving Picture Boy** entry on Schwarzbauer:

"Robert Muller's superb novel, on which **"THE WORLD THAT SUMMER"** is closely based, was published in 1959 in Britain, where he has lived since leaving Germany, as a part-Jewish schoolboy, in the 1930s.

The story, set in Hamburg at the time of the 1936 Olympics and largely autobiographical, tells of a boy with a much-loved Jewish grandmother whose racial origins he and his family hush up. Hannes visits her regularly and goes to the opera with her, but at the same time he belongs to the Hitler Youth and is keenly interested in making the grade and winning his HJ knife.

He keeps cravenly quiet as his playmates smash the windows of Jewish shopkeepers, and when his granny is moved in on by a Nazi lout (her former milkman) whose price for silence is bed, board and the bulk of her earnings, Hannes is jealous and contemptuous rather than sympathetic, and simply disowns her. At last, when his family has been pretty well destroyed by fear and caution, shame catches up with him.

Moral courage, let alone heroism, is a large thing to ask, particularly of such a naturally conformist creature as a boy. Nils Malmros' film **"KUNDSKABENS TRÆ"** offers a corresponding picture of young male cowardice in democratic Denmark. Few can be sure they would have behaved better in Hannes' circumstances, so ingrained is the instinct for self-preservation.

Jews understood that as well as any. A telling scene shows Hannes, in a brief mood of racial solidarity, pausing outside a Torah school and asking one of the pupils if it would be possible for him to enrol. "I wouldn't, if you don't have to," says the Jewish boy with dignity.

**"DIE WELT IN JENEM SOMMER"** (finely directed by Ilse Hoffmann for Westdeutscher Rundfunk) is an agonising story. It is also extremely funny – richly informative, for instance, about German schoolboy smut of the period and the devout absurdities of the Hitler Youth. The characterisation of the grisly gang Hannes hangs around with is spot-on, most memorably the sly little bourgeois Rolfi (Jörg Doleh) with his smart bike and his snigger.

As Hannes, Jan-Claudius Schwarzbauer is tremendous: on the surface just an ordinary, sport-loving boy, but with nervous calculation seething behind his cool exterior. We watch his self-respect eroded a little more with each act of betrayal until he reaches an abject state of moral numbness."

[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 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"]

No further information currently available. The obvious companion piece to this would be another German TV film made the same year – **"DIE KINDER AUS Nr.67 (oder: 'HEIL HITLER, ICH HATTE GERN EIN PAAR PFERDAPFELN')"** ("The Kids from No. 67 or: 'Heil Hitler! Oops, Sorry About the Horse-Shit'") which follows a labour activist's son who wants to join in the sports of the Hitlerjugend, but sees his former friends distance themselves from him as his father falls into disgrace. More provocatively these could be seen alongside propaganda films of the period such as **"JUNGE AREND"** (Nazi air cadets), **"JAKKO"** (sea cadets) and **"HITLERJUNGE QUEX"**. Nothing else is known of Schwarzbauer or Doleh.

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