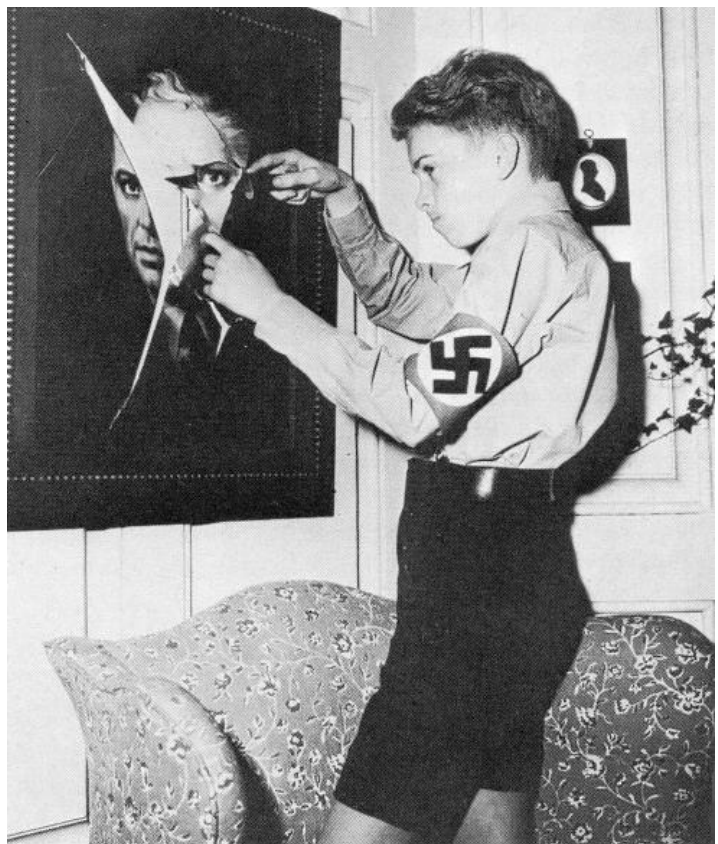


SUBJECT INDEX

THE CHILD AS *EVIL IN OUR MIDST*

See also: Brats / Spoilt Children, Feral children,
Horror / Supernatural



A social historian might some day write a paper on the trend in seventies cinema to transgress the unwritten rule about portraying young children as psychopaths, murderers, demons. Earlier films like **"THE BAD SEED"** (56) were vaguely controversial precisely because they cast children in such a sinister light, but the 1970s produced so many titles in this vein that it almost became a new cinematic cliché. What is piquant is that this coincided with a whole raft of titles portraying children for the first time in an explicitly sexual role. These trends were clearly related and suggest, if not a genuine dismantling of a long-held social tabu, at least a tentative re-evaluation of the core myth of childhood "innocence". What we have seen in the thirty years since, it could be argued, is a ferocious backlash, reinstating that core myth as truth.

Here then are the homicidal kiddies, the mutant babies, the demonic toddlers and junior Antichrists – for whom a jolly good spanking doesn't really fit the bill. Stories of this sort reflect, one could argue, adult

anxieties about the little folk who share our dwelling spaces and yet are not *quite* tame. These are the “innocents” who express our sub-conscious awareness that the child is not innocent at all, but every bit as corrupt as we are. These are the parental nightmares which make the everyday crises of bullying and sibling rivalry seem somehow more manageable and minor. Occasionally the baroque fantasy will obtrude itself on real life – as in the sadistic murder of toddler Jamie Bulger by two prepubescent English boys, or occasional reports of young Americans butchering their parents or schoolfriends, but our culture is so infested with tabloid journalism that the comforting myth remains predominant, despite periodic reminders from the real world that it is as bogus as Santa’s elves.

Absolution	UK 1978
Blood on Satan’s Claw	UK 1970
Bloody Birthday	US 1980: Three 10-year olds, spawned during an eclipse (shudder) go on a psychotic rampage, but specialising in teens necking, as all crazed killers seem to do. With Billy Jacoby , K.C. Martel
The Boys From Brazil	US 1978
The Child	US 1977: Girl, 11, recruits cannibal zombies from the local cemetery to help her avenge the death of her mother, with Rosalie Cole .
The Children	US 1980: Dopey horror flic has a busload of schoolkids pass through a radioactive mist and emerge as homicidal radioactive mini-zombies. Well they would, right?
Chiller: “Prophecy”	
Damien – Omen II	US 1978
Eraserhead	UK 1976
The Exorcist	US 1973
The Good Son	US 1993
It’s Alive!	US 1973
A Little Game	
The Little Girl Who Lives Down the Lane	
Mais Nous ne Delivrez pas du Mal	
Los Niños	Spain 1975: “The Children”, aka: “Quién Puede Matar a un Niño?”. Children on the remote Balearic island of Almanzora revolt and murder all the adults, then set off to continue their good work on the mainland.
The Other	
La Playa Prohibida	Mexico 1984 : “The Forbidden Beach”. Boy (+/-13) violently opposes mom’s new boyfriend
The Sailor Who Fell From Grace with the Sea	
Tomorrow the World	
Village of the Damned (95)	
The Visitor	

Non-fiction