

Bad Little Angel

US : 1939 : dir. William Thiele : M.G.M. : 72 min
 prod: Albert Levoy : scr: Dorothy Yost : dir.ph.:
Virginia Weidler, Gene Reynolds, Cora Sue Collins, Mickey Kuhn; Douglas Madore; Ann Todd
 Ian Hunter; Lois Wilson; Reginald Owen; Henry Hull; Guy Kibbee; Mitchell Lewis; Esther Dale
 Elizabeth Patterson

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	♀	M	♂	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5068	4.5	3	6	818	3	-	-	-	-	No	Unseen



Halliwell's Film Guide review

"A sad little girl flees an orphanage and brightens up several lives in a small town. Pollyanna-type period drama, definitely for small-town audiences but well enough done. Scr: Dorothy Yost, from the novel "Looking After Sandy" by Margaret Turnbull."

"Homespunner for the nabes" - Variety

The M.G.M. Story note:

"As the Rooney-Garland Bartholomew class was graduating, younger youngsters were being developed for possible stardom; two of the best actors among them, although never the biggest names, were Virginia Weidler and Gene Reynolds. Producer Albert Levoy teamed them under William Thiele's direction in "**BAD LITTLE ANGEL**" - a nauseating title for not a bad little movie. With them in the Dorothy Yost screenplay were Ian Hunter, Lois Wilson, Reginald Owen, Henry Hull, Guy Kibbee,

Elizabeth Patterson, Mitchell Lewis, Esther Dale and subsidiary moppets *[sic]* Cora Sue Collins and Ann Todd.”

Those Endearing Young Charms note:

“Virginia had one of her greatest dramatic opportunities in this film about a waif of the nineties. Adapted from a famous Margaret Turnbull novel and directed by William Thiele. Ian Hunter, Guy Kibbee, and Reginald Owen headed a large cast. In this scene *[b/w still overleaf with dog]* we see Virginia with her favourite companion, Toto.”

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "A Pictorial History of the Talkies", "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"]

Those Endearing Young Charms entry on Virginia Weidler:

“Dark brown hair and brown eyes. Virginia was the daughter of Margaret Weidler, one time grand opera star. As a young girl, Virginia enjoyed acting in and directing home-made plays with her five brothers and sisters. When she was five years old she received a part in a professional play entitled “Autumn Crocus”. The part called for a little girl who could speak both French and German. Virginia was a precocious young lady *[sic]*, and since she was able to speak both languages she won the role.

Sitting in on one of her performances was Norman Taurog, a director for Paramount Pictures. She so enchanted Mr Taurog that he hired her to act in his forthcoming movie, “**MRS WIGGS OF THE CABBAGE PATCH**”. The role proved to be a boon to Virginia for it led to her winning a long-term contract with Paramount. She stayed at Paramount for three years, at which time Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer bought her contract.

In the majority of her films, Virginia played the role of a mischievous imp, stalking through the picture with grim determination and ruining more love affairs than a divorce lawyer. She enjoyed the roles she had, and thought it much more fun than playing a sweet little girl. It also gave her an opportunity to be outgoing – something which she was not in real life.

Virginia continued acting for MGM until the mid-40s, when she switched over to the Broadway stage. She died in 1967 at the age of 40.”



Weidler with Reynolds *Source: The MGM Story*





Weidler, Toto and a disdainful Mickey Kuhn

Source: The Moving Picture Boy

No further information currently available. There's never an alternative title around when you need one.

[Virginia Weidler](#), a kind of Jackie Searl or David Holt in pigtails, rarely got a shot at centre stage roles ("**GIRL OF THE OZARKS**" was another) but made her presence felt in feisty and quite contrary supporting characters, half a century before headstrong self-assertive children became the American fashion. Her offscreen personality, needless to say, was much at variance with the kind of temperament she displayed in her films, and it would be facile to view her as a sort of diminutive proto-feminist, but she made a welcome corrective to the saccharine young heroines of the Shirley Temple mould.

Here 12, she debuted in the Lionel Barrymore "**MOBY DICK**" aged 3. Other films included "**MRS WIGGS OF THE CABBAGE PATCH**" (34), "**TROUBLE FOR TWO**" (36), "**OUTCASTS OF POKER FLAT**" (37) and "**THE UNDER-PUP**" (39). Gene Reynolds ("**OF HUMAN HEARTS**") was 16, Cora Sue Collins 11, Mickey Kuhn about 8 and Douglas Madore unknown. Ann Todd (not the older British actress of the same name) was 7.

See subject index under **DOGS**, [HISTORY](#), [ORPHANS / ADOPTION](#) and **RUNAWAYS / STOWAWAYS**.

