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Captain Johnno

Australia : 1988 : dir. Mario Andreacchio : : 97 min
prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

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Damien Walters; John Waters; Joe Petruzzi; Michele Fawdon; Rebecca Sykes

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ ∅ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Source: 33rd London Film Festival programme

33rd London Film Festival (1989) programme review:

"Captain Johnno is a 12-year old deaf boy living in a small fishing town in South Australia during the 50s. Through ignorance and prejudice most local people, including his own father, think him stupid. He takes refuge in the sea, where he is completely at home, and in friendship with Tony, a newly-arrived Italian immigrant. Even so, it all gets too much for Johnno. This is a moving and effective evocation of the attitudes of the 50s. Have they all now vanished completely? "CAPTAIN JOHNNO" won an International Emmy in a

New York Festival of Children's Films." - Terry Staples

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

Radio Times note:

"Children's tale from Australia."

What's On TV note:

"Children's tale from Down Under."

"An Australian children's tale."

Sunday Times deep background report:

"Children's tale."

No further information currently available. They certainly do their research, these TV guide hacks. Unfortunately this title post-dates the two reference books I have on Australian cinema, but I believe I saw it nearly ten years ago on Dutch children's TV, in which case it's a superior Australian production (notwithstanding the feeble title) with a vivid and indignant central character, and certainly an oversight by *The Moving Picture Boy*. If the lead – Damien Walters? – was not himself deaf, then he gave a very creditable performance of it, capturing the flat and discordant tone of deaf speech which people sometimes confuse with imbecility. ***Recommended.***

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