

The Children

US : 1980 : dir. Max Kalmanowicz : : 89 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

Jessie Abrams; Jephtha Evans; Clara Evans; Nathanael Albright; Sarah Albright
 Martin Shakar; Gil Rogers; Gale Garnett; Tracy Griswold; Joy Glacum; Shannon Bolin; Joy Glaccum; Julie Carrier;
 Michelle Le Mothe; Edward Terry; Peter Maloney; Rita Montone; John P. Codiglia; Martin Brennan; J.D. Clarke;
 James Klawin; Arthur Chase; Suzanne Barnes; Diane Deckard; Ray Delmolino; Michael Carrier; X. Ben Fakack

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω 8 ≠ M ☺	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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"Pray you never meet them !" – are they kidding? But we must remember that video games were still in their infancy in 1980, so the ubiquitous child zombie had not yet arrived.



"Give us a hug" rasps the murderous radioactive zombie boy. I want one.

Source: CVMC website

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide
1996 review:

"When a mysterious gas from a nuclear plant contaminates a school bus, the kids become radioactive and burn up whoever they hug. Dull movie with a few laughs and no suspense at all. ***1/2**"

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review - loose
translation of the above

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

"Terrible film about kids marked by a radioactive accident while they were on a school bus. Rated "R". **Turkey**"

CVMC video retail/rental website review:

"A busload of children roughly ten to thirteen years old are driven through a chemical mist which turns them into

murdering zombies. Might one of their fathers and the local sheriff put a stop to the madness before it is too late? A film so stupid and low-budget it is hard to believe it was ever released.

Rated R: adult themes [sic]; brief nudity; sexual themes; violence; brief/mild profanity

Categories: Boy Films, Little to Preteen, Girl Films, Little to Preteen, Adolescent, Horror."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "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", or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. It sounds like a script idea from "**The Simpsons**", and they gave this film an "R" rating in the States? Was that a joke too?

Those mysterious mists are a bit of a caution aren't they? They turned "**THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN**" into a microbe, they brought buccaneers back from Beyond the Grave in "**THE FOG**", and lord knows how many Godzilla adversaries they spawned.

Radioactive children bred to survive a nuclear holocaust was the Dire Warning behind Losey's strangely muted "**THE DAMNED**" (63), while, on the positive side, in "**DAMIEN, OMEN II**", a gas released by an accident at an industrial plant during a school visit is what first tips off the scientists one of the kids might have a bit too much of the devil in him.

If this all sounds a tenuous pretext for a slaughterama, try "[**BLOODY BIRTHDAY**](#)", released the same year, in which three ten-year olds *born under an eclipse* embark on a killing spree.

See subject index under [**THE CHILD AS EVIL IN OUR MIDST**](#) and – should we call it **HORROR** ?