

The Gamma People

UK : 1955 : dir. John Gilling : Warwick / Columbia : 79 min
 prod: : scr: John Gilling & John Gossage : dir.ph.:
[Michael Caridia](#)
 Paul Douglas; Eva Bartok; Leslie Phillips; Walter Rilla; Philip Leaver

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5610	1.5	6	1	535	-	-	-	-	-	No	<i>unseen</i>



Grrrr, pass me that slipper somebody...

Source: The Moving Picture Boy

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001 review:

"Douglas and Phillips happen upon comic-opera country ruled by scientists trying to

create geniuses; they do, but sometimes brainless "goons" also. Worse, the geniuses have no emotions. Peculiar Ruritanian sci-fi adventure. ** "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

“Horror film of no consequence at all, about a communist professor with an apparatus that can turn people into robots. ** ”

Halliwell's Film Guide review

“Journalists in a Balkan state uncover a plot by a mad scientist to control the minds of children by gamma rays. Artless serial-like thriller with little suspense.”

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89 review:

“Moderate drama with science fiction and political overtones concerning a gamma ray invention by which people are transformed into either geniuses or imbeciles. ** ”

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

“Weak science fiction tale about children being transformed into homicidal monsters or geniuses. *Turkey* ”

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Michael Caridia:

“There was something splendidly snide and haughty about Michael Caridia even at twelve, in his early appearances on TV. He was the son of wealthy parents (his father something important in the car trade) and clearly knew his worth.

He excelled in spiteful parts, and in "**THE GAMMA PEOPLE**" was an enthusiastic member of a totalitarian youth movement, almost a mini-Hitler. In "**UP IN THE WORLD**", with Norman Wisdom, he plays the sadistic little Sir Reginald, given to playing cruel practical jokes on the staff. (Happily, he gets slightly duffed up himself.)

Carida went on acting into his late teens, with some fine performances on TV and the London stage.”

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "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. The fact I've never seen it, nor even heard of it, though I'm familiar with most British science fiction films, must be some indication of its quality. The anti-Communist propaganda behind the lame mad scientist plot seems fairly overt, but it also seems to belong to the same school as "**VILLAGE OF THE DAMNED**" (60) and Joseph Losey's "**THE DAMNED**" (61) – our children being fashioned into soulless aliens under our very noses. Quite where that particular cold war neurosis stemmed from in Britain (State education?) is harder to pinpoint. Michael Caridia, a sort of English counterpart to the Jackie Searl type, was 14. He was also seen in "**THE RELUCTANT BRIDE**" (55) and "**ODONGO**" (56). His TV appearances are not known.

See subject index under **BRATS / SPOILT CHILDREN, EASTERN EUROPE / SOVIET BLOC, PRODIGIES, SCIENCE FICTION** and **SCOUTS / YOUTH MOVEMENTS**.