

Impossible Object

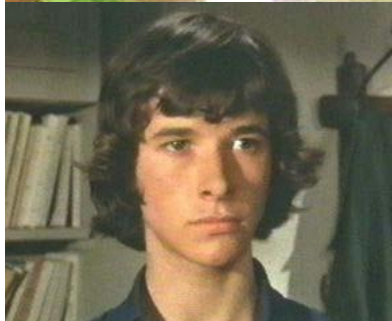
(original title unknown; retitled: "The Story of a Love Story")

France : 1973 : dir. John Frankenheimer : Franco-Londen / Euro International : 110 min
 prod: : scr: Nicholas Mosely : dir.ph.: Claude Renoir

[Mark Dightam](#); [Sean Bury](#); [Michael McVey](#)

Alan Bates; Dominique Sanda; Evans Evans; Lea Massari; Michel Auclair;
 Laurence de Monaghan

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	☺	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5211	3	3	9	704	3	-	-	-	-	No	Unseen



Sean Bury
"Adam"



Mark Dightam
"James"



Michael McVey
"Richard"

Story of a Love Story (1972) U.K.

John Frankenheimer

Frame grabs above and overleaf – source: indeterminate website

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide
2001 review:

"Writer Bates has an experimental affair with Sanda – or is it his imagination? Interesting premise, middling result. Originally titled **"IMPOSSIBLE OBJECT"**. Never released theatrically. **1/2 "

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

"In this determinedly offbeat and increasingly off-putting adaptation by screenwriter Nicholas Mosely of his novel **"IMPOSSIBLE OBJECT"**, Alan Bates stars as an English novelist who becomes involved in an affair with a married Frenchwoman (Dominique Sanda), though he, too, is married and has three sons. In English and French with some subtitles. Rated "R" for nudity and brief violence. ** "

Variety Movie Guide 1993 review:

"John Frankenheimer spent over a year in Paris and then made this film for a local company, albeit mainly in English with passages between French people in French. It is a many-pronged affair in a tale of a writer whose inventions and real life may not always be extricable. It mixes romantic drama, situation comedy and insights into Americans or British abroad.

Alan Bates is a writer, living in a country home in France, outside Paris, with three sons and an American wife. He meets brooding but delicately sensual Dominique Sanda, who is married, in a museum and love blossoms. Film flits lightly over the affair, the writer's embroidery on it and sideline events that reflect on it until sudden swerve to tragedy.

Though pic segues from fantasy to implied realism, pic has an airy grace, fine playing down the line."



Mark Dightam

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



Michael McVey



No further information currently available, but three sources isn't bad for a film that was never released theatrically. The early seventies rang the death knell of the British film industry – the first of many such deaths – and the early symptoms of rigor mortis could be read in a blossoming of the euro-pudding. Britain's last true child star, Mark Lester, made a number of his subsequent (little-seen) films on the continent, for example. Not all these French/Portuguese/Norwegian/British co-productions went immediately onto the shelf, but many of them ought to have done. You cannot take a spoonful of German sensibilities, a spoonful of British, add a dash of Dutch humour, and expect the result to register well with audiences in either country, but that lesson took a long learning.

Alan Bates' three sons may only serve as background décor in the film, but it's on their account that we include it here, so we can happily ignore the commonplace theme of illicit romance. Mark Dightam, here 14, starred the previous year in the Children's Film Foundation title **"THE BOY WHO TURNED YELLOW"**, and in 1971 he was slain fresh from his bath as Macduff's son in Polanski's **"MACBETH"**. He also made a film called **"SAM AND THE RIVER"** (72) of which I know nothing.

Sean Bury, now 19 (his birthday was three days before Dightam's) had played the fragile Jute in Lindsay Anderson's **"If..."** (68), one of the pupils in the musical remake of **"GOODBYE MR CHIPS"** (69), and Joseph Cotten's son with a key surgically inserted adjacent to his heart by the maniacal Vincent Price in **"THE ABOMINABLE DR PHIBES"** (71). He had his own illicit French romance in **"FRIENDS"** (71) and its sequel **"PAUL ET MICHELLE"** (74), neither of which fared too well with the critics. Nothing else is known of Michael McVey.

See subject index (possibly) under **SEASIDE HOLIDAYS**.