

Kid Vengeance

US : 1977 : dir. Joe Manduke : : 94 min
 prod: : scr: Bud Robbins & Jay Telfer : dir.ph.:
Leif Garrett; Glynnis O'Connor
 Lee Van Cleef; Jim Brown; John Marley; Matt Clark; Clark Glover

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5290a	3	3	26	775	3	-	-	-	-	No	Unseen



Leif Garrett tossed his hat into one abysmal Western after another in the 70s, but did not cut his lovely hair. He was a glaring anachronism on the screen of course (note the 70s shirt collar), and his acting range very modest, but any excuse to look at Leif Garrett was welcome. Shame he never appeared in any films worthy of a second glance..

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001 review:

"Bloody, gory, obnoxious Western about young Garrett seeking revenge against outlaws who killed his parents and kidnapped his sister.
 *1/2 "

Radio Times Guide to Films review:

"A repellent revenge Western that teams genre veterans Lee Van Cleef and Jim Brown with seventies' teenage pop star Leif Garrett in some vain hope of snaring a gullible audience¹. Garrett plays a kid who goes after the killer of his parents (guess who?) and teams up with Brown's prospector whose gold has been

¹ Garrett made this **before** he became a pop star, so that doesn't quite add up.

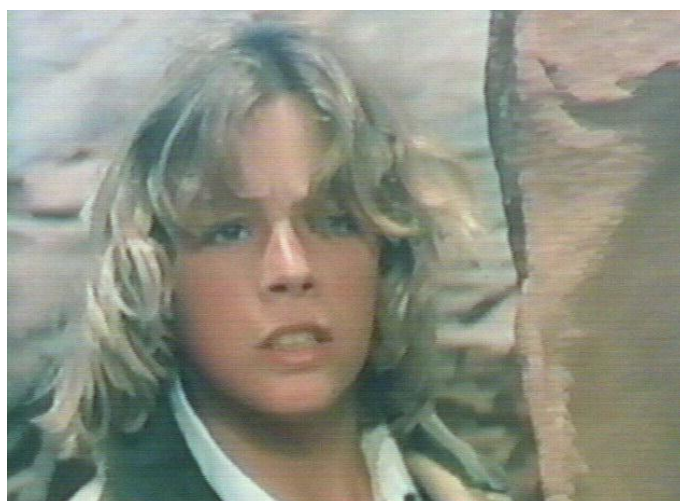


Leif Garrett & Glynnis O'Connor star in 'KID VENGEANCE'

After killing the man who raped & murdered his family, Leif comes face to face with the man's son.



Source for stills and embedded captions – indeterminate website



stolen by the same man. Director Joseph Manduke pastes over the paucity of plot and simplicity of dialogue with violence and a number of savage deaths. Filmed in Israel, this dispiriting affair is significant only in that it marked Van Cleef's final foray into Westerns.

** 2 **

Amazon.com customer reviews:

“ **"KID VENGEANCE"** is a cold tale of revenge that is sometimes quite disturbing yet Van Cleef turns in a good performance as usual. Filmed in Israel with some interesting background and worth a look to diehard spaghetti and eurowestern fans!”

- Poseidon 2000, Orlando Florida

“It is the classic western in which the strong, silent man is embodied in a ten year old boy. His stoic pursuit of the vicious gang that killed his parents is both engaging and emotionally rewarding.”

- Anon, L.A.

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "Film Review 1978-79", "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", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

² If the film is "repellent", why then award it a rating of two stars out of a maximum of 5?

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Garrett:

“Leif Garrett is his stage name; his mother is the actress Carolyn Stellar. He was a glamorous child with the eyes of a knowing doe, and began acting professionally as a five-year old.

Although he was in continuous demand and acquired a considerable teeny-bopper following, his star roles, as in **"SKATEBOARD"** and the lurid **"KID VENGEANCE"** didn't come till he was 15. (He was unlucky to be only eight or nine when Visconti was casting **"DEATH IN VENICE"**, though this would actually have been nearer

the age of the real-life Tadzio – Wladyslaw Moes – at the moment Thomas Mann saw and was entranced by him in Venice in the summer of 1911.)

Leif Garrett now began making rock LP's, but his acting career continued strongly, with roles in **"SERGEANT PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND"** (78), **"THE OUTSIDERS"** (83), **"THUNDER ALLEY"** (84), and a near-lead – as a motor mechanic – in Bruce Morrison's **"SHAKER RUN"** (NZ 85)."



No further information currently available. It's fair to assume the rest of the critics didn't like this one much either, poor flagbearer of the bagel Western genre, which seems to have served no better purpose than retirement top-up fees for ageing screen legends of yore.

Leif Garrett, arch-Ganymede of disco, was 15, in the same year he made **"SKATEBOARD"**, the TV series pilot **"PETER LUNDY AND THE MEDICINE HAT STALLION"** (in which he played a rider with the Pony Express) and **"FINAL CHAPTER: WALKING TALL"** (he'd been Buford Prusser's son in all three "chapters" of that head-cracking sheriff series). He'd already been teamed with Lee Van Cleef (and Jack Palance) in the previous year's **"GOD'S GUN"** – another trashy revenge Western shot in Israel, with abysmal post-synchronisation. None of Garrett's film appearances even began to exploit his self-evident androgynous charms – indeed, he seems to have been at pains to avoid that kind of casting – yet he would fulsomely embrace his sexually ambivalent image as a late adolescent pop star and pin-up. Nothing else is known of Glynnis O'Connor.

See subject index under [KIDNAPPING](#), [KIDS OUTWIT THE CROOKS](#), [VENGEANCE](#) and [WESTERNS](#).