

The Little Adventurer

UK : 1972 : dir. : : 84 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Mark Lester](#)
 Adult cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω 8 € M ♂	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
3691b	2.5	1	4	497	3 - - - -	No	unseen



It's out there somewhere... (even with Chinese subtitles)

Source for all stills: CMVC website

CMVC video retail/rental website review:

“A boy (Mark Lester) of roughly thirteen years visits Japan and there makes some friends as well as finds himself wrapped up in a plot of espionage. Probably not the best of Lester's films, but fans certainly won't want to miss this rare find.

Released in: 1975
 Length: 84 minutes
 Rated NR: mild violence

Language: English (also some Japanese) (with Chinese subtitles)
 Categories: Action/Adventure, Boy Films, Adolescent, Girl Films, Adolescent
 Note: Preferred Member Video ”



Oliver hits the Land of the Rising Sun and, like Gajira, conquers all before him. Pretty boys export well.

It has to be some reflection on the moribund state of the British film industry in the early 70s that the greatest boy star this country has produced since Roddy McDowall made most of his films abroad – and not in the US.

It would also be fair to say that Lester's characteristic flat, nasal delivery would have been less of an impediment to bilingual scripts.



[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "A Pictorial History of the Talkies", "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"]

No further information currently available. The fact this title is absent from so many mainstream sources leads me to suspect it was a Japanese production with negligible European/US distribution. CVMC gives the release date (based no doubt on the video they're marketing) as 1975, but Holmstrom's "*Moving Picture Boy*" is a more dependable source. Mark Lester was in case 17 in 1975, and he looks a little fresher than that here.

File this one alongside Lester's weebegone euro-blancmanges, shot in Spain or Italy, like "**LA STREGHE**" in 66, "**SENZA RAGIONE**" in 72, and "**LA PRIMA VOLTA SULL'ERBA**" in 75. Even a substantial part of "**BLACK BEAUTY**" (71) was shot on the continent, and Lester's role in it was minimal (though his name is always to the fore whenever it's shown), while "**EYEWITNESS**" was shot completely in Malta, and "**NIGHT HAIR CHILD**" (71) had a definite euro-blancmange twang to the dialogue. Mark had the distinct misfortune to be Britain's only palpable child star at a time when the British film industry itself was in its death throes. Here 14, he did not make another film in the UK, unless one counts the Panamanian-accredited "**CROSSED SWORDS**" (77), Lester's last film and possibly his worst performance. Two of his films were apparently never completed – "**THE DREAMTIME**" in 73 and the intriguingly titled "**THE BELLS OF HELL GO TING-A-LING-A-LING**" in 66. "**THE LITTLE ADVENTURER**" was at least released, though it seems to have sunk without trace.

For further examples of icky East/West harmony, see also "**ESCAPADE IN JAPAN**" (57, with Jon Provost), "**PAPER TIGER**" (74), "**THE BAD NEWS BEARS GO TO JAPAN**" (78) and "**TOO MUCH**" (87). See subject index under [ASIA](#), pending more details.