

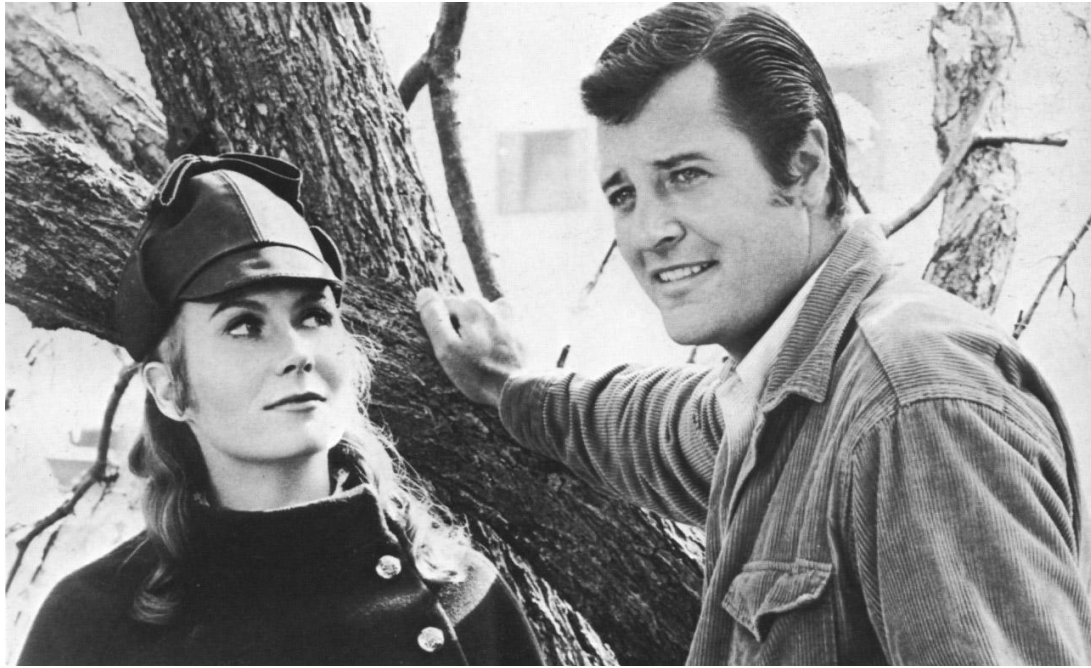
Nanny and the Professor

US TV sitcom : 1969-71 : dir. : ABC : 54 x 25 min
 prod: Charles FitzSimmons : scr: : dir.ph.:
David Doremus; Trent Lehman; Kim Richards
 Richard Lang; Juliet Mills

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω 8 ∅ M ∅	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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He doesn't look much like a professor, and she doesn't look much like a nanny, so we're off to a great start!
Candy-box kiddies left to right: David Doremus, Kim Richards and Trent Lehman
Source: Former Child Stars – The Story of America's Least Wanted



Juliet Mills and Richard Lang. Within three years, Lang would be dead of a heart attack. Let that be a lesson to all college professors who would trifle with supernatural child-minders.
Source: *The History of Television*

Halliwell's Television Companion review:

"A widower with three children is helped by a nanny with apparently magical powers. Second-rate **"MARY POPPINS"** with occasional ingratiating charm. Creator: A J Caruthers "

Former Child Stars – The Story of America's Least Wanted background note:

"...Trent Lehman was the second to third-banana kid on a minor TV sitcom (**"Nanny and the Professor"**) that ran all of a season and a half on ABC from 1970 to 1971. You've got to have a long memory to know anything about **"Nanny and the Professor"**, a cut-rate **"Bewitched"** with Juliet Mills' magical housekeeper in place of Elizabeth Montgomery's magical housewife. *TV Guide* once called the show "a half hour bit of fluff," and, indeed, it flitted away like one – its short-lived network run followed by a relatively short-lived syndication run. Nothing much about **"Nanny and the Professor"** seemed to leave a dent – it wasn't memorably terrible, it wasn't memorably great.

When it was over, Mills continued her TV/film career; Kim Richards, who played the youngest of Nanny Phoebe's three charges, became a Disney film star (**"ESCAPE TO WITCH**

MOUNTAIN"); **"The Big Valley"** alum Richard Long, who played nanny's employer Professor Howard Everett, died of a heart attack in 1974; David Doremus, who co-starred as Howard's eldest son, Hal, scored a recurring role on **"The Waltons"** from 1972 to 1977; and Trent Lehman, as the middle boy, Butch, never did prime time again.

Up until **"Nanny"**, the blond-haired Trent was a working cute, kid actor. Following his sister in the business, he booked his first commercial at age six¹ and went on to guest starring roles on **"Gunsmoke"** and the like. In other words, it was a typical existence for a working, cute kid actor. His home life appeared equally typical: during the **"Nanny"** run, he was a fourth-grader at Vena Avenue Elementary School in Arleta, California; his stepdad was a plant foreman at a local aircraft company; his mom was a mom; his sister was a sister. Said **"Nanny"** producer Charles FitzSimmons of Trent, "He was 100 percent real boy". After the series ended, the "real boy" found acting gigs hard to come by. "He was getting older and bigger," Tent's one-time agent Don Schwartz said. "Sometimes the older kids have trouble finding work. The little kids are cuter."

In 1977, the Lehman family left California for Colorado – the line was Trent's mom "wanted

¹ How did he manage that exactly, at age 6?

peace" for her kids. In the summer of 1981, Trent moved back to Planet Hollywood (or North Hollywood, as was the case) on his own. His friends said he came looking for a girl. In early 1982, the love affair ended and his apartment got robbed. On January 19, he went to a buddy's house and asked to borrow a gun. Trent told the friend he wanted to kill himself. The friend did not give Trent a gun. Instead, he offered to put him up for the night. Trent accepted. Later that night, Trent visited his old Vena Avenue stomping grounds, roped a leather belt around his neck, and hanged himself from a chain-link fence. Quoth the newspaper: "Former Child Star, 20, Depressed, Hangs Himself." "

No further information currently available. Aside from "**ESCAPE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN**" (73) and its sequel "**RETURN FROM WITCH MOUNTAIN**" (78), [Kim Richards](#) also made "**NO DEPOSIT, NO RETURN**" (76) for Disney, and had a fatally brief role in John Carpenter's "**ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13**" (76). Nothing else is known of the two boys. All that need be said about Trent Lehman's later suicide is that we shouldn't be too quick to infer his dwindling acting career was the prime cause. Many TV children, as that same book discloses, were deeply unhappy with the work their parents cajoled them into, and not all would have wept to fade from the limelight. Richard Lang's heart attack is almost as much a surprise as Lehman hanging himself. He looks the picture of good health in those stills.

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