

No Kidding

(US = "Beware of Children")

UK : 1960 : dir. Gerald Thomas : Anglo Amalgamated / GHW

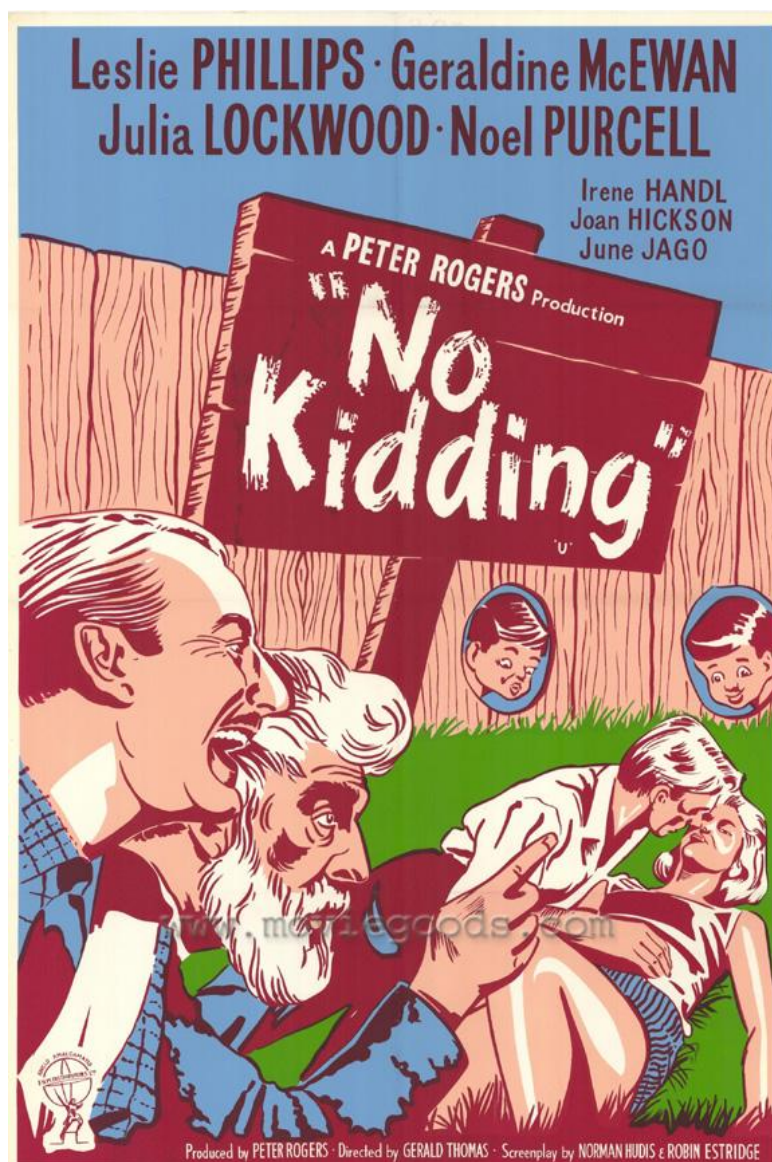
: 86 min

prod: Peter Rogers : scr: Norman Hudis & Robin Estridge : dir.ph.:

[Martin Stephens](#); [Christopher Witty](#); [Francesca Annis](#)

Leslie Phillips; Geraldine McEwan; Julia Lockwood; Noel Purcell; Irene Handl; Joan Hickson;
June Jago; Cyril Raymond; Esma Cannon; Alan Gifford; Sydney Tafler; Eric Pohlmann;
Patricia Jessel; Joy Shelton; Mike Sarne; Earl Cameron

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Laugh? I thought I'd never start. Eagle-eyed readers will have spotted a couple of (badly drawn) children lurking in the background there, but you can't judge a film from its poster. **OR CAN YOU ?**

Source: Moviegoods.com



Leslie Phillips enshrined himself in the public's affection as the diffident cad, an Englishman of a certain breeding with a wholly un-English preoccupation with sex. A sort of Noel Coward with condoms in his back pocket, a cheeky chappie for the landed gentry. Only rarely – as in "EMPIRE OF THE SUN" – did he essay straight roles.

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996 review:

"Tedious attempt at a light-hearted romp; a young married couple transforms an inheritance of land into a summer camp for all sorts of children, focusing on the predictable pranks of the youngsters. *1/2 "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review - identical to above

Halliwell's Film Guide review:

"An old house is turned into a holiday home for deprived rich children. Strained comedy with an agreeable cast. Writers: Norman Hudis & Robin Estridge, from a novel by Verity Anderson."

The British Film Catalogue 1895-1985 listing:

"Comedy. Couple inherit an old house and turn it into a holiday home for deprived children of the rich."

The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television review:

"And precious few smiles, either, despite frantic efforts by Leslie Phillips and Geraldine McEwan, turning their country house into a children's holiday home; **Carry On** director Gerald Thomas fitted it in during 1960. 777 "

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

Excerpt from **The Moving Picture Boy** entry on Martin Stephens:

"Martin Angel Keller – with a middle name like that, it's ironic that he became famous for playing evil children – initially appeared before the camera as a commercial model, before acting (as Martin Keller) in the refugee drama "**THE DIVIDED HEART**". After this, and a lapse of some years, he became Stephens. Martin had an alert, intelligent little

face which was capable of being funny or mischievous.

He was demure and touching in films like "**THE WITNESS**", where he was threatened by crooks and exploited by police, and amused everyone as crafty Sigismond, the child of Deborah Kerr and aristocrat Rossano Brazzi in "**COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS**". It was only as the leader of the mysteriously-spawned alien children of "**THE VILLAGE OF THE DAMNED**" – sporting a loathsome bleached coiffure and luminescent eyes – that he joined the ranks of hell, consolidating his status with his chilling Miles in Henry James's "Turn of the Screw", filmed as "**THE INNOCENTS**"..."

Cast:

AliceCharlotte Henry
David RobinsonLeslie Phillips
Catherine RobinsonGeraldine McEwan
VanillaJulia Lockwood
TandyNoel Purcell
Mrs SpicerIrene Handl
CookJoan Hickson
MatronJune Jago
Col. MatthewsCyril Raymond
District NurseEsma Cannon
Edgar TreadgoldAlan Gifford
RockbottomSydney Tafler
KingEric Pohlmann
QueenPatricia Jessel
Mrs RockbottomJoy Shelton
Richard Robinson**Christopher Witty**
Angus**Martin Stephens**
Priscilla**Francesca Annis**
Henri DumondeMike Sarne
FatherEarl Cameron

No further information currently available, but with a **Carry On** director one can sense how dreadful it could be, despite Phillips' comic charm (he was formerly a child actor himself, and one of the more amusing turns in "**CARRY ON TEACHER**" the year before this). Martin Stephens was 12. Christopher Witty was 10. He was with Dennis Waterman in "**GO KART GO**" (63), had parts in "**THE DAMNED**" (61), "**THE RAILWAY CHILDREN**" (70) and the hospital soap "**NO TIME FOR TEARS**" (57) as well as the doubtless estimable serial "**THE ADVENTURES OF REX**" (59). Not to be confused with his British contemporary boy-player Christopher Wiggins. Francesca Annis was 16, but had earlier appeared in "**THE CAT GANG**" (58) for the Children's Film Foundation, and possibly others.

See subject index under **COMEDY** (heavily sedated) and **SUMMER CAMPS / SUMMER SCHOOL** for mostly American titles such as "**POISON IVY**" and "**CAMP NOWHERE**".