

Rags to Riches

US TV : 1986/87 : dir. Bruce Seth Green : 104 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

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 Joseph Bologna; Douglas Seale; Kimiko Gelman; Tisha Campbell; Bridgett Michelle;
 Blanca DeGarr; Heather McAdam

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Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89
 review:

"A kickoff for a series featuring a millionaire (Joe Bologna), his butler, and six exuberant orphans frolicking about the tycoon's estate. **"

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide" or "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995"]

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

"Joseph Bologna plays millionaire Nick Foley, who tries to soften his ruthless businessman image by adopting six girls. His money can't solve the problems that the girls present him with. This was a pilot for the TV series of the same name. **"

No further information currently available. But "Tisha"? "Bridgett"? "Blanca"? American parents must be dyslexic, it's the only explanation that will fit. Not to be confused then with the 1922 and 1941 films of the same name, this is apparently another variant on the "**Diff'rent Strokes**" theme (white millionaire adopts two black ghetto boys). Another one was the Western series "**Father Murphy**" (single man masquerades as a kind of monk in order to set up his own ad hoc asylum for runaways and foundlings).

Come to think of it, American TV has often told this tale of "respectable" single men adopting children, whether individually or in clutches, and that does raise the interesting question whether US adoption procedures are any less implacably opposed to single male parents than their counterparts in the UK. One suspects not, and although TV movies featuring lone male parents are not so infrequent as they were, surely the central posit of a series pilot like this one would strike American audiences as about as feasible as "**Mr Ed**" (a writer with a talking horse) or "**My Favourite Martian**". More data required. Does not compute.

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