

The Silent Playground

UK : 1964 : dir. Stanley Goulder : British Lion : 75 min
 prod: : scr: Stanley Goulder : dir.ph.:

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 Roland Curram; Bernard Archard; Jean Anderson; Ellen McIntosh; John Ronane

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ € Z ♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television review:

"Unpretentious little British thriller about some children in possession of a dangerous drug. Too obviously rushed, the direction (by writer Stanley Goulder) shows some nice touches. Roland Curram, Bernard Archard, Jean Anderson, John Ronane pull their weight. * "

Variety Movie Guide 1993 review:

"Brought in in 24 days at a modest \$75,000, with entire location shooting and a little known cast, this is quality production. Writer-director Stanley Goulder had documentary experience but this is his first feature work. His screenplay is taut, economic and natural in dialogue and his direction is unfussy and alert.

The story, which has a useful reminder to parents and moppets [*sic*], "never take sweets from a stranger", concerns a mentally retarded

youth who loves kids. Returning from the hospital where he is an out-patient he hands out highly coloured barbiturate tablets to youngsters in a cinema matinee queue. End of show finds a number of unconscious children slumped in their seats. All are dangerously ill. Then begins the patient fight for their lives at the local hospital, while the police hunt for the donor of the tablets."

[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", "The Moving Picture Boy", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. I think I'd be dangerously ill too, slumped unconscious in my seat, if I'd paid to see this, clearly a "quota quickie" with a vaguely offensive subtext – at least as delineated above. Today, kids inadvertently taking drugs is the least of their parents' worries. On the other hand of course, it's a welcome respite to hear that it isn't "strangers" which children need to fear, but any brightly-coloured sweets they may happen to have about their persons. For a similar "dire warning to parents" film of the same vintage, this time from Hammer, see "**NEVER TAKE SWEETS FROM A STRANGER**".

See subject index under **HOSPITALS / SICK CHILDREN**.