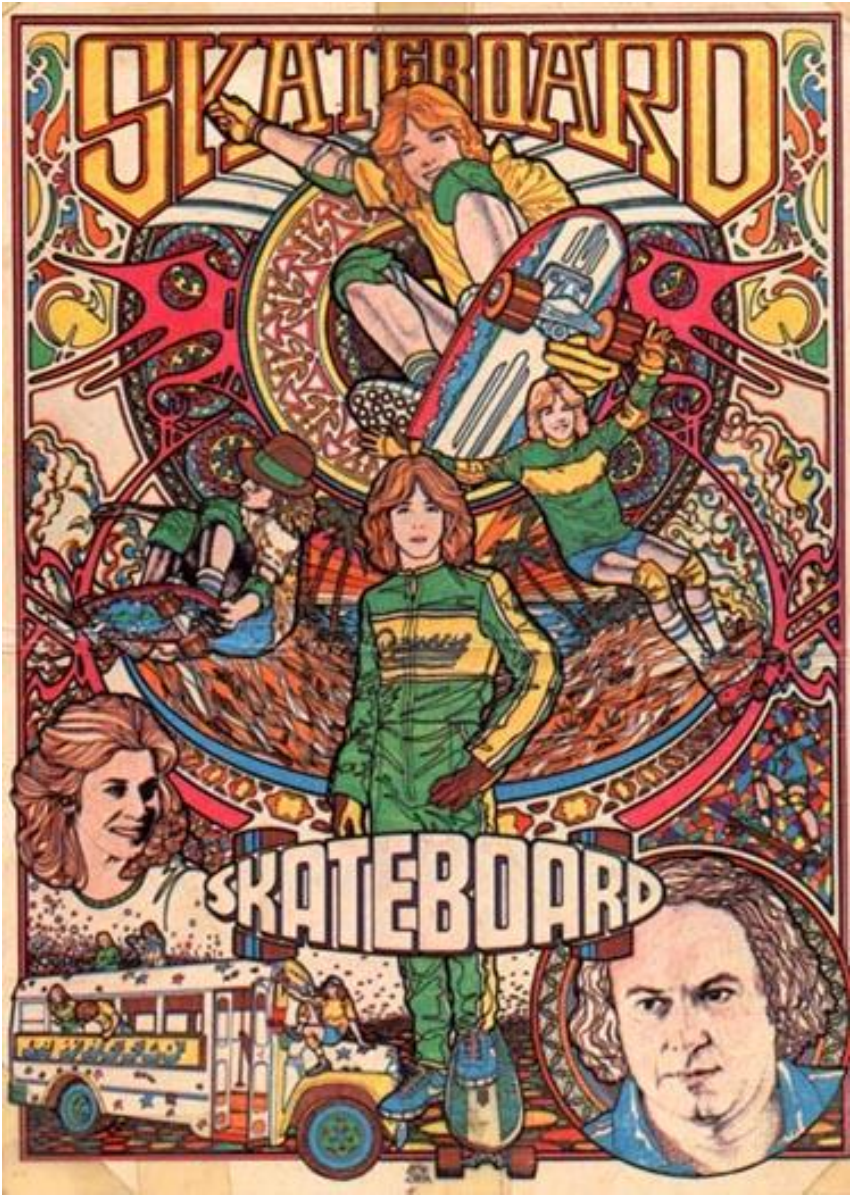


Skateboard

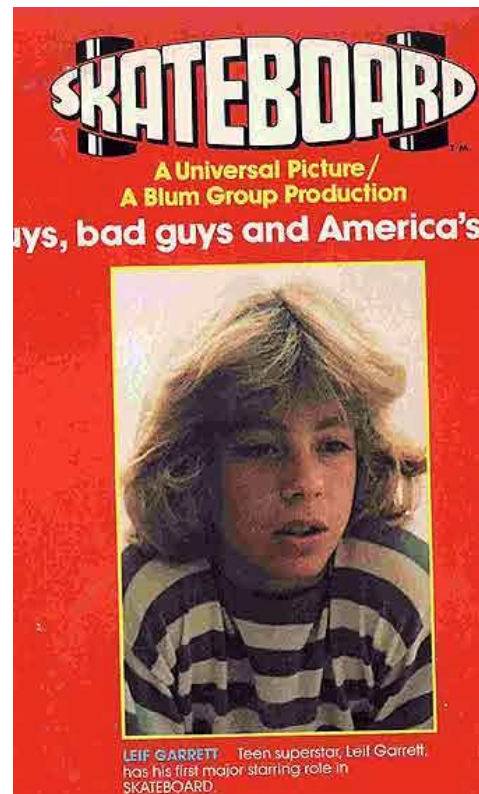
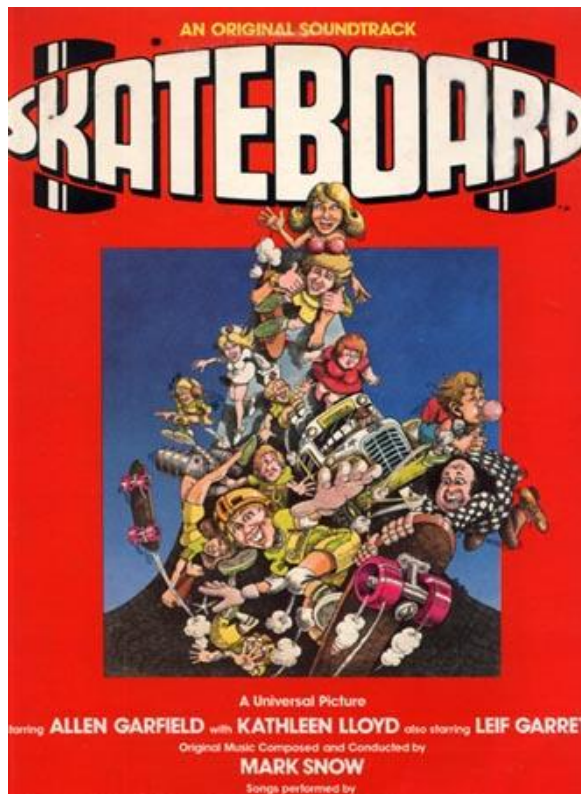
US : 1977 : dir. George Gage : Universal / CIC : 97 min
prod: Richard A Wolf & Harry N Blum : scr: Richard A Wolf & George Gage :
dir.ph.: Ross Kelsey & Joe Streuben

[Leif Garrett; David Hyde](#)
Allen Garfield; Kathleen Lloyd; Richard Van Der Wyk; Tony Alva; Anthony Carbone;
Steve Monahan; Ellen Oneal; Pam Kenneally; Sylvester Words; Gordon Jump; Pat Hitchcock

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω 8 ∅ M ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
3756c	8.5	8	8	1,476	3 - - - -	No	Unseen



The Lucy-in-the-Sky-With-Diamonds artwork is more '67 than '77- identifying skateboarding as a post-hippy fad, but was it ever that?
Source: My Love of Leif website



Left: that artstyle is more identifiably seventies – recalling “**AMERICAN GRAFFITI**” and “**NATIONAL LAMPOON’S ANIMAL HOUSE**” – but where’s the pretty boy gone? Never mind, there he is on the right, in his “first major starring role”. Actually the film disappeared even faster than the craze which spawned it. Source: My Love of Leif website

Leonard Maltin’s Movie and Video Guide
2001 review:

“In trouble with his bookie, Garfield organises local skateboarders into moneymaking team. Good premise given lacklustre treatment. ** ”

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review – identical to above

Halliwell's Film Guide review

“A small-time theatrical agent in trouble builds up a professional skateboard team. Unsatisfactory exploitation item which devotes more time to its plot than to its sport.”

Film Review 1978-79 review:

“A sort of “**BAD NEWS BEARS**” story transferred to a background of the new sport, with an impecunious theatrical agent getting a few expert kids to form a professional team, one of whom eventually wins the \$20,000 downhill race and gets the agent off his bookie’s

threatening book! Loud, lively, and full of skateboard acrobatics. Screenplay: George Gage and Richard A Wolf, from the latter’s story. Release: March 19th Cert. “A” ”

“Another film reflecting today was CIC’s “**SKATEBOARD**”, an amusing and lively comedy which highlighted the skills of some of the most able experts of the new craze in a story about a chubby theatrical agent who in desperation becomes manager of a kids’ team and takes them to the top – a likeable performance by Allen Garfield. The small star who wins the big race for him: Leif Garrett,”

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89
review:

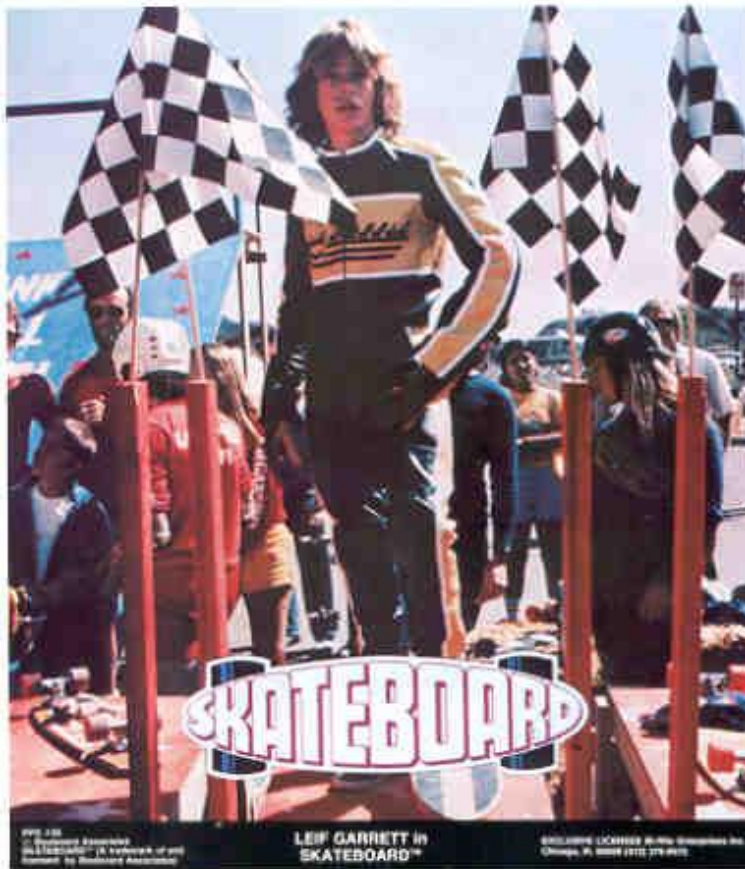
“Skateboards are a menace and so is this dim-witted film in its own sappy way. 1/2* ”

The Time Out Film Guide review:

“This would seem to promise a rip-off “**BAD NEWS BEARS**” on wheels, and visions of yet another exploitative US sub-culture package

hardly whet the appetite. Yet anticipations of doom are happily dashed: the familiar

ingredients of cynical but loveable coach (Garfield), bronzed, blond-curled Southern



After a string of indifferent roles in dud westerns, dud horror flicks and formulaic TV movies, Garrett finally got the chance to do something he was good at – not singing, but skateboarding. There was something fresh about the sport (land-surfing by another name) but the plot was positively geriatric, cribbed from a hundred other horse-riding, baseballing, boxing, footballing kid-from-nowhere-wins-the-main event movies.

Source: My Love of Leif

California kids, the absurdist razzmatazz of American competitive sport, and a rock soundtrack, here actually mesh into a rather endearing entertainment. The film neatly explores the psychology (and the economics) of hype and "pressure", and its many skateboard action sequences are well shot and edited. A good, lightweight, upbeat family film."

The Universal Story comment:

"For enthusiasts only, "SKATEBOARD" was an exploitation quickie that cashed in on a current craze and told the story of a down-and-out theatrical agent who recruits a few expert young skaters and forms them into a professional team. One of the members wins a \$20,000 downhill race, thus helping to liberate the agent from a threatening bookie.

Allen Garfield played the agent, and the rest of the cast under George Gage's unsubtle direction included Kathleen Lloyd, Leif Garrett, Richard Van Der Wyk, Tony Alva, Steve Monahan and David Hyde. Gage wrote

it with Richard A Wolf (story by Wolf), and it was produced by Wolf and Harry N Blum."

NAMBLA Bulletin vol.5/5 note:

"...From a small "Boy Actors Film Society" newsletter which came out monthly several years ago.. August 1977: Leif Garrett's film, "SKATEBOARD", was not picked up for distribution. (Note: it included blonde [sic] 10-year old David Hyde)..."

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"Leif Garrett is his stage name; his mother is the actress Carolyn Stellar. He was a glamorous child with the eyes of a knowing doe, and began acting professionally as a five-year old.

Although he was in continuous demand and acquired a considerable teeny-bopper following, his star roles, as in "SKATEBOARD" and the lurid "KID VENGEANCE" didn't come till he was 15. (He was unlucky to be only eight or nine when Visconti was casting "DEATH IN

VENICE", though this would actually have been nearer the age of the real-life Tazio - Wladyslaw Moes - at the moment Thomas

Mann saw and was entranced by him in Venice in the summer of 1911.)



Drug-crazed exorcist lunges from the crowd to drive the demons from startled teen sport hero. Read your National Enquirer. Source: Film Review 1978-79



All very well in its way, but Evel Knievel was doing this with buses, wasn't he? Source: The Universal Story

Leif Garrett now began making rock LP's, but his acting career continued strongly, with roles in "SERGEANT PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND" (78), "THE OUTSIDERS" (83), "THUNDER ALLEY" (84), and a near-lead - as a motor mechanic -

in Bruce Morrison's "SHAKER RUN" (NZ 85)."

Videocassette sleeve notes:

“Adventure, suspense and comedy are all in this upbeat movie about a wayward group of skateboard-crazed kids. Out-of-work agent and tapped-out horseplayer Manny decides to start a professional skateboard team as a solution to his financial dilemma. Unfortunately, the only thing professional about the L.A. Wheels are the bills they run up. And Manny is not prepared for the fast-paced hijinks of this young group.

The action builds up to the climactic \$20,000 Invitational Race. The star of the team takes a powder, and Manny must now depend on a young team member who doesn't seem ready for the big-time. To add to his problems, Manny's bookie wants the kid to take a dive. As the gun goes off, everyone wonders what the outcome will be [*everyone except the audience, that is*].”

“ **"SKATEBOARD"** is a thoroughly infectious comedy movie... Filmed dynamically”

- **L.A. Times**

“Light, loose, and wholly entertaining”

- **The Hollywood Reporter**

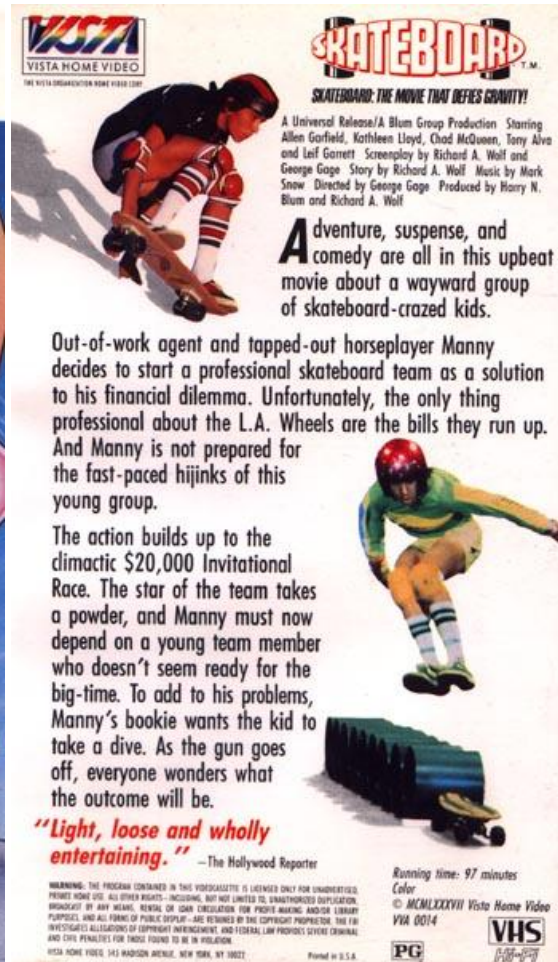
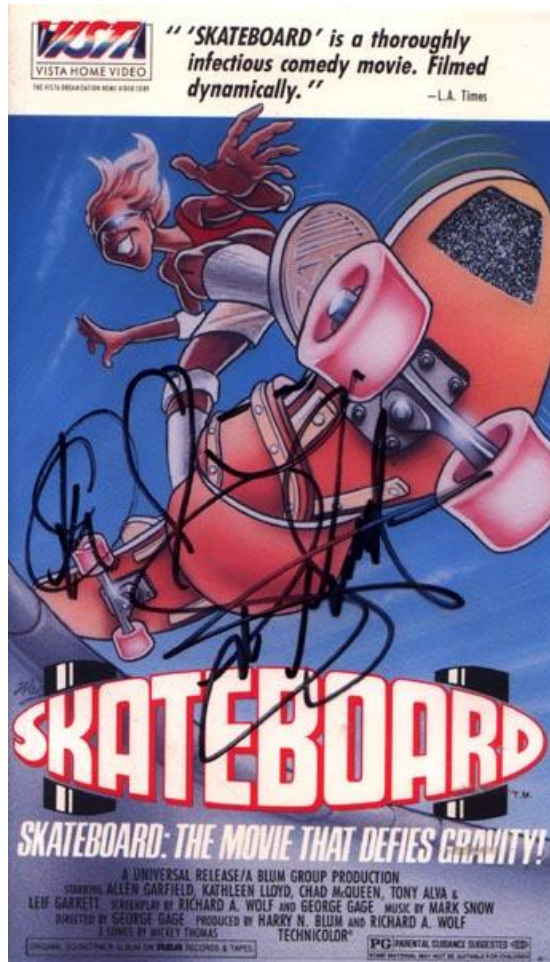
[**no listing** in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. The *Time Out* review is surprisingly enthusiastic over what seems on the face of it just another “Let’s put on a show!” title of the kind Rooney and Garland would have made in the 40s, or any number of sport/horseracing films where the team from nowhere surprises everyone but the audience by winning the big game/race. Here it is hitched onto the adolescent fad of the day – perhaps a more photogenic fad than most – but crude cash-ins of this sort rarely do the fad any service.

Skateboarding did have authentic potential as a new sport – bringing all the grace and agility of surfing onto dry land. Less elitist than surfing itself (most kids could afford the basic equipment, and didn't require access to a beach), although predominantly a boys' sport, it was atypical in that it did not especially favour the testosterone junky who excels at most team sports. It was more akin to cycling or skating, where individual stamina and balance are decisive. Local authorities across the UK invested in concrete skate parks, only to find with some annoyance that the craze soon gave way to the next one: BMX bikes.

Inveterate skateboarder Leif Garrett was 15. Probably the most famous film he ever appeared in was “**BOB AND CAROL AND TED AND ALICE**” at 7, but among his more obscure and curious outings were “**PEOPLETOYS**” (74 – as one of a set of demonic kids), “**GOD’S GUN**” and the abortive TV series pilot “**PETER LUNDY AND THE MEDICINE HAT STALLION**” (77 – extruded titles were in vogue then). Holmstrom’s “knowing doe” was never really cast to type, but then it’s hard to think of a title in which he *could* have bloomed (perhaps “**MONTREAL MAIN**”). His sensuality was too overt even for a Tadzio. Visconti’s creature might have been coquettish, but he was not positively *inviting* carnal caresses. Garrett was so jaw-droppingly gorgeous (and evidently knew it) that his come-hither smile seemed sublimely indifferent to gender. They sure don’t make ‘em like *that* any more.

See subject index under **SPORT**.



Source: My Love of Leif website

Any excuse to look at pictures of Leif Garrett is good enough for me, and good enough for you. Right, and overleaf, some gratuitous fan magazine shots of the seventies – none of them from this film – illustrating the boy's credentials, as a skateboarder. Enjoy!



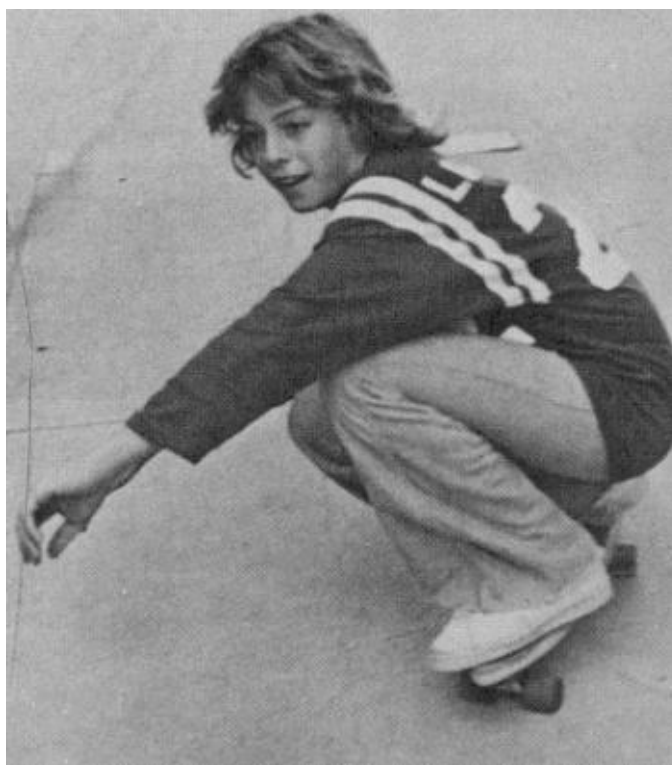


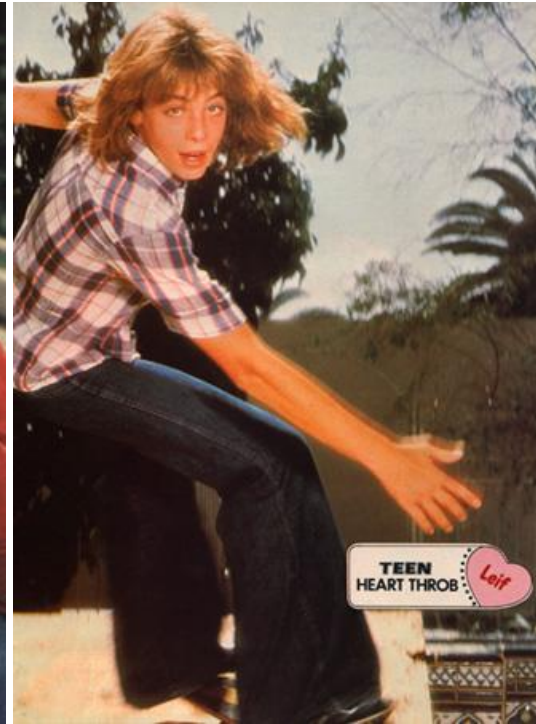
It's Leif alright. And ahm, he's sitting on it.



Above: That's Leif again. And that's his skateboard.

Right: He's coming this way. On a skateboard.





In the 1990s skateboarding suffered a revival – but with a new, grungy, hard-faced 1990s mean appeal – a very long way from the androgynous California beach-chic of the first wave. We know who hijacked the sport and engineered that difference, but it's impolitic to say so. Thankfully the new craze died off even faster than the first one.