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Timm Thaler

(UK = "The Legend of Tim Tyler")

W German TV serial : 1975 : dir.

: 13 x 25 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

[Tommi Ohrner](#)

Horst Frank; Gerhard Lippert; Richard Lauffen; Hans Gerd Kübel

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω □ € Z ☼	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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all stills shown – source: Radio Times

Radio Times (?) programme notes:

"The Baron is the richest and most powerful man in the world. But he has a problem - nobody nice wants anything to do with him. Tim Tyler is a happy-go-lucky youngster with

such an infectious laugh that when things go wrong he can laugh his way out of any trouble. Tim's laugh, decides the Baron, is the one thing that can help him gain control of the bits of the world not already in his power, and in "The Legend of Tim Tyler" he sets out to buy it.

Hidden deep in the crater of a volcano, in his mysterious island home, the Baron and his assistant Anatol hatch a plot. Perhaps if Tim were not such a happy boy, he wouldn't mind selling his laugh."

"A 13-part drama about the boy who lost his laugh.

- 2 - Tim's life has suddenly turned upside down, leaving him little reason to laugh. This may turn out to be to the Baron's advantage.
- 7 - Sister Agatha and ship's cook Henry have saved Tim's life."

What's On TV programme notes:

- " - Tim Tyler's irresistible laugh always gets him out of trouble - but the Baron, who rather lacks a sense of humour, is out to make it stick in his throat.
- Sister Agatha disrupts a press conference which the Baron has called to announce that Tim is to be his heir.
- Tim thinks the only way to get his laugh back is to become the richest boy in the world."

TV Quick programme notes:

- " - Tim sets off to find the Baron.
- Stowing away on board the Baron's ship, Tim meets a ship's cook - and a nun!
- Tim thinks the only way to get his laugh back is to become the richest boy in the world.
- Tim tests out his betting power.
- "The Final Bet"
Tim gets his laugh back - but only for a day."



The Moving Picture Boy entry on Ohrner:

"The handsome, long-haired and extrovert Tommy - whose elder sister Carolin also acted, in more modest roles - was Germany's favourite TV boy of the skateboard era, rather like Leif Garrett in the USA. Most of his early films were noisy family comedies, but when he was ten he played (on TV) the dramatic role of the son in **"BRENNENDES GEHEIMNIS"**, as Peter Eysoldt had done in 1923 and Hans Joachim Schaufuss in 1933, and the brilliant David Eberts in 1988.

Tommy had the lead in the popular TV serial **"Timm Thaler"** - known in English-speaking countries as **"Tim Tyler"** - about a boy with a wonderful laugh, so wonderful that it got him kidnapped by a villain who couldn't laugh at all.

When his career resumed in his late teens, he was in **"IM DSCHUNGEL IST DER TEUFEL LOS"** ('82), **"EIN DICKER HUND"** ('82), **"Manni, der Libero"** ('82, TV series), **"PLEM, PLEM, DIE SCHULE BRENNT"** ('83) and **"DIE UNGLAUBLICHEN ABENTEUER DES GURU JAKOB"** ('83)."

[no listing in "The Golden Age of Children's Television", "Halliwell's Television Companion", "History of Television", "Into the Box of Delights - a History of Children's Television", "Television's Greatest Hits" or "25 Years of ITV - 1955-1980"]

On British TV the series was repeat broadcast in June 91. It has no connection with the 1937 matinée serial "**TIM TYLER'S LUCK**" [qv]. "**Timm Thaler**" is a plodding fantasy tale with little to commend it beyond a fetching central personality, and even that is distorted beyond recognition in the grotesquely dubbed English language version - the voice chosen for Timm being an octave too deep, several years too old and irritatingly petulant.

But I also saw the serial in its original German, and that too was pedestrian, a mechanical script failing to capitalise on the originality of its central conceit (one the surrealists would have enjoyed) - that a boy might literally bestow his infectious laugh on someone devoid of humour (for a Faustian price) as easily as giving blood.

The story fails even to be funny (instead it's a tepid kidnap adventure with a moral in the tail), but does not fail to be formulaic. The dénouement is so glib it rivals Dorothy kicking her heels together to return to Kansas in "**THE WIZARD OF OZ**", or Shirley Temple discovering that "**THE BLUE BIRD**" (of happiness) was to be found at home right along. Horst Frank at least is quite serviceable as the bargain basement Blofeld who decides to boost his PR with a hostile takeover of an adolescent's giggle. A bit like Saddam Hussein resolving his image problems by doing a Billy Connolly act.

Attractive Tommi Ohrner was also seen as the boy Merlin in another children's serial, and made a few low budget teen comedy features that went nowhere, such as "**GIB GASS - ICH WIL SPASS**" and "**PLEM, PLEM, DIE SCHULE BRENNT**" (83). Holstrom gives his date of birth as 1965, but he's certainly older than 10 here, so either this was later than 75, or that birthdate is wrong.

See subject index under **FANTASY / FOLK TALES / FAIRY TALES** and **SERIALISATIONS**.