

Tom Brown's Schooldays

UK TV serial : 19[71] : dir. [Gareth Davies] : ? [5] x ? min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

Cast unknown [Anthony Murphy]

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	✕	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5380	4.5	0	24	300	3	-	3	-	7	No	Pre 1974



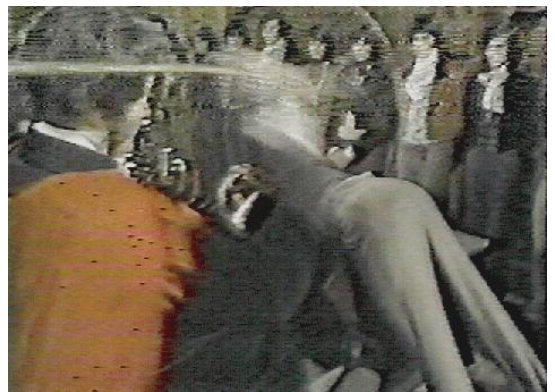
*Tom's **Ubertanning** experience, and Flashman's come-uppance – both scenes expurgated from the 1951 John Howard Davies film version.*

Source for this sequence of frame grabs: The Movie and TV Spanking Page

[no listing in "Halliwell's Television Companion", "History of Television", "How Sweet It Was", "Television's Greatest Hits" or "25 Years of ITV - 1955-1980"]



*Much as this ceremonial public flogging will strike the modern eye as gratuitously sadistic, in reality the birch, and not the cane, was the preferred instrument of correction at Rugby and other public schools of the day – and birching was delivered on the naked buttocks, because the small cuts and weals it inflicted would tear the cloth of the breeches. Traditional floggings were far **more** bloody and brutal than even this scene suggests.*



*"Reforming" headmaster Dr Arnold was **not**, as we see, an early abolitionist of corporal punishment – quite the contrary – but he made it his mission to root out the "Hellfire Club" aspects of the public school flogging system, which he saw as immoral and un-Christian. The point about Tom's beating (in the story itself) is that he was innocent, not that it was a barbaric way to punish miscreant boys.*



No further information currently available. A costume serial of the early 70s with fairly lavish production values, and less concerned to sanitise the school's history than the 1951 British film, which was shot in the precincts of Rugby School itself. So far from employing "body doubles" and cutaway shots in the pivotal caning scene (or skipping it altogether, as the film did), the mother of the actor playing Tom remarked that, despite heavy padding, "some of the cane's message still got through". I had a vague recollection that Anthony Valentine (later in the "**Callan**" and "**Manhunt**" series) had played Flashman here, but he's clearly not the actor pictured below, so possibly there was another, slightly later, serialisation of the story, although I only recall having seen one. Unfortunately none of the cast can be identified. A bawdy romp purporting to tell the further adventures of Flashman in the army appeared in 1975 as "**ROYAL FLASH**", with Malcolm McDowell in the lead. It sank like a stone, along with many another over-ambitious British film of the period.

See film versions in 1916, 1940, 1951, and subject index under [BOARDING SCHOOL / PUBLIC SCHOOL](#), [BULLYING](#), [CORPORAL PUNISHMENT](#), [HISTORY](#) and [SERIALISATIONS](#).

