

Jimmy the Kid

US : 1983 : dir. Gary Nelson : : 85 min
prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Gary Coleman](#)
Paul LeMat; Walter Olkewics; Dee Wallace; Ruth Gordon; Don Adams; Cleavon Little;
Fay Hauser; Avery Schreiber

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide
2001 review:

"Bored, brilliant son of wealthy husband-and-wife singing team is kidnapped by a gang of pathetically incompetent bunglers, who teach him how to enjoy being a kid. Coleman returns the favour by bringing a good cast down to his level of non-acting, consisting of endless mugging and exaggerated eyeball-rolling, in this lame comedy. Based on a Donald Westlake novel, with LeMat in the same character played by Robert Redford in "THE HOT ROCK". *1/2 "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review - identical to above

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89
review:

"Typical vehicle for Coleman, playing a precocious [sic] rich kid who's kidnapped by bungling crooks and learns how to better appreciate his childhood because of this experience. *1/2 "

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

"Paul LeMat leads a band of bungling criminals in an attempt to kidnap the precocious [sic] son (Gary Coleman) of some extremely wealthy country-and-western singers (Cleavon Little and Fay Hauser). To everyone's surprise, Jimmy doesn't mind being kidnapped; in fact, he sort of likes it. Yawn. ** "

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

Radio Times note:

"Comedy. When Jimmy Lovejoy is kidnapped he discovers some of the things he has missed out on because of his privileged upbringing. "

What's On TV review:

"Feeble comedy with Gary Coleman as the son of a singing duo who finds the fun of his childhood was hitherto lacking when he's kidnapped. * "

"Comedy. A boy has the time of his life when he's kidnapped from his famous singing parents."

If kidnapping is such a gas for the kids, what's all this nonsense with the milk cartons? The same (ineffably crass) idea was recycled for another diminutive black American sitcom kid – Emmanuel Lewis of “**Webster**” – for “**LOST IN LONDON**”. A slightly different take – Jehovah’s Witness boy is kidnapped by two escaping convicts, one of whom is shocked to find how impoverished the boy’s childhood experiences have been – arrived from Kevin Costner in the shape of “**A PERFECT WORLD**” (93).

See subject index under **COMEDY**, [KIDNAPPING](#) and [PRODIGIES / GIFTED CHILDREN](#), although – as in “**THE KID WITH THE 200 IQ**” (83) – the audience is expected to work its imagination overtime perceiving Coleman as a genius to start with. Here 14, he reigned supreme on the mixed-race adoption sitcom “**Diff'rent Strokes**” from 78 to 86, and on the strength of it starred in a succession of mediocre film comedies (chiefly for TV): “**THE KID FROM LEFT FIELD**” (79), “**SCOUT'S HONOR**” (80), “**ON THE RIGHT TRACK**” (81), “**THE KID WITH THE BROKEN HALO**” (82) etc. Cuteness, also, is in the eye of the beholder.