

Short & Curlies: “ ??? ”

["Short & Curlies" was merely the name of the production company; the film was called "**Now That It's Morning**"]

UK TV : 19[92] : dir. [Neil Bartlett] : Channel 4 : c15 [11] min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

.....
 Cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω	□	≠	Z	⊗	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
3291a	½	1	0		-	-	-	3	3	No	<i>unseen</i>

What's On TV note:

"Short films. A middle-aged man finds opposition to his relationship with a 15-year old boy. Set in Sixties' London."

[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", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Broadcast 18/11/92. If he thought he faced "opposition" in sixties London, he should try visiting the 1990s! We burn people at the stake for that sort of thing now. Now that we've become a more caring and tolerant society.

Increased awareness of homosexuality, increased paranoia about childhood in an over-sexualised culture, increased autonomy of women (and a consequent mistrust of male sexuality *per se*) – all of these trends have coalesced in the latter decades of the century into a new McCarthyism obsessed with inter-generational sex. Why else would a middle-aged man seek the company of a boy of 15, but to debauch the innocent prostate?

In the light of such an unreasoning wave of public hysteria, any film that sets out to question these presumptions at all, however tentatively, as in "**MAN WITHOUT A FACE**", must come as a breath of fresh air. But, as with modern "revisions" of the recent past in general, one should be wary of transplanting contemporary neuroses onto earlier times. Suspicions of impropriety between men and teenage boys were not so quickly and loudly invoked in the 1960s, and not so readily believed. One man's ignorance is another man's bliss.

See other titles in this strand, and subject index under **SHORT FILMS** and **SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS** (for other highly suspicious goings-on).