

Der Schüler Gerber

("Schoolboy Gerber")

Austria / W Germany : 1981 : dir. Wolfgang Glück : Arabella / Satel / Almaro : 110 min
prod: : scr: dir.ph.: Xaver Schwarzenberger

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Gabriel Barylli; Werner Kreindl; Doris Mayer; Romuald Pekny

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"Splendid camerawork by Xaver Schwarzenberger in this adaptation of Friedrich Torberg's novel about the arbitrary way in which teachers and pupils can belittle one another. For the sensitive, intelligent pupil Gerber the results of his exams come too late. His maths teacher has already plagued him to death. A drama based on true incidents. **1/2"

The Good Film and Video Guide review:

"The student Gerber (Gabriel Barylli) has an unfeeling mathematics teacher (Werner Kreindl) and their relationship is virtually all there is to this movie, though it does say

something of the pangs of adolescence and young love. Glück's handling is confident; his adaptation of Friedrich Torberg's 1930 novel updates it by a couple of years. ** "

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Bloomsbury Foreign Film Guide", "The Critics' Film Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "The Moving Picture Boy", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "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. Gerber would presumably be 16 or 17, though Gabriel Barylli may have been anything up to 25. There have been numerous films in which an individual pupil – almost invariably a boy – has been victimised by a schoolteacher – almost invariably a man – and not usually by means of arbitrary beatings as in "**SPARE THE ROD**", but by psychological attack, arguably the more devastating method of undermining the fragile self-esteem of an adolescent. The pupils in such cases are typically described as "sensitive", from which we must infer that ordinary boys are largely invulnerable to psychological cruelty.

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