

## Document Citation

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**WEDNESDAY'S CHILD**, directed by Ken Loach from a screenplay by David Mercer, got 5 favorable reviews (Carroll, Winsten, Wolf, Knight, Reed), 9 mixed (Roger Greenspun, Times; Molly Haskell, Village Voice; Kissel, Harris, Simon, Cocks, Michener, Taylor, Gelms) and 2 negative (Crist, Drew).

Roger Greenspun: "Janice gets pregnant and she wants

to have the baby, but her parents tell her that they know best, and so Janice has an abortion instead. Janice likes a fellow, but he hates the Establishment and drives around at night on a noisy motorbike, and so her parents decide: exit the boyfriend and enter Janice—into a hospital for mental patients. Janice is the central figure in Ken Loach's 'Wednesday's Child,' a film that is about family life in all kinds of terrifying ways. In the films of Ken Loach (including 'Kes,' 1969, and 'Poor Cow,' 1967) there are usually villains enough, but no heroes—only

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victims. You may feel great interest, even compassion for these victims, but their roles are heavily psychologically or socially determined, and for all the care that goes into portraying them they suggest not character, but intellectual example. Lovely, gentle and wholly vulnerable, Sandy Ratcliff brings to Janice probably as much human variety as the role allows. The rest of the cast—part professional, part amateur—is also very good." At the Paris.