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Attention, Les Enfants

Regardent

~~(Attention, the Kids Are Watching)~~

(FRENCH-COLOR)

Variety

4/26/78

Paris, April 25.

United Artists release of Adel Productions-UA production. Stars Alain Delon. Directed by Serge Leroy. Screenplay, Christopher Frank, Leroy, from a book by Laird Koenig, Peter Dixon; camera (Eastmancolor), Claude Renoir; editor. Fernand Cespi. Reviewed at Publicis-Elysees, Paris, April 13, '78. Running time, 100 MINS.

Man	Alain Delon
Secretary	Francoise Brion
Dimitri	Richard Constantini
Marlene	Sophie Renoir
Boule	Thierry Torchet
Laetitia	Tiphaine Leroux
Gardener	Henri Vilbert
Policeman	Marco Perrin

Alain Delon, star and producer of this tale of child psychology and suspense, does not really come into the pic until midway and is then dispatched by a batch of four supposedly rich, well-brought-up kids from 5 to 13 before the end. Pic lacks a true edge of menace and insight and is a predictable, familiar affair.

The film industry, fighting against too many pix shown on tv, too low prices for films and too many prime filmgoing time showings, may be trying to get back at video in this pic.

The kids live in a big house near the ocean with only a Spanish maid and the occasional visit of a secretary. They spend their time looking at tv, especially violent pix, from morn to night when they are not on the beach. Alongside the water one day they push the sleeping maid, on a rubber raft, into the water as a lark. But she floats out and awakes and gets hysterical for she cannot swim. The kids do make an attempt to save her, but she drowns.

Apparently an unkempt stranger, Delon, may have seen it. They decide to hush it up and go on an orgy of eating sweets in the well-stocked kitchen and making a mess of things. They manage to stave off people looking for the maid and even the secretary until one day Delon comes into the house. He had seen the drowning.

He terrorizes the kids and is apparently preparing to go off with the family car when he finds the key. The older girl decides to vamp him while the older boy, 12, gets one of daddy's guns, he is a collector, and starts shooting at Delon. Ironically, it is the exploding tv set that really gets him. Kids dispose of his body, insist the maid ran off, get the house cleaned up before acting angelic at the return of the parents.

Done better in "A High Wind in Jamaica," "Lord of the Flies," "Our Mother's House" and other films on moppet susceptibilities and cruelty, film still might have okay returns locally and in spots where Delon has a following. Delon cannot create the menace and disturbing qualities a film of this kind needs. Playoff in other climes is also indicated. — Mosk.