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## Cesta do Praveku

( "Journey into Prehistory" )

Czechoslovakia : 1955 : dir. Karel Zeman

: 92 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

[Vladimir Bejval](#) .....

Adult cast unknown

| Ref:  | Pages | Sources | Stills | Words | Ω | □ | ≠ | Z | ⚡ | Copy on VHS | Last Viewed |
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| 3780a | 1½    | 1       | 0      | 549   | - | - | 7 | 7 | 7 | No          | Pre 1990    |

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"An educational live action/cartoon about the history of the world, seen through the eyes of four children. Successful on the whole, although the style will not appeal so much to us. \*\* "

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Bejval:

"Vladimir was a droll little blond who provided comic relief - and now and then solemnity - in Czech films of the early Fifties."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "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"]

A charming little tale about a young boy who finds a fossil trilobite, and is so delighted with it that he resolves to travel back in time to see one, as it were, in the flesh. And why ever not? He and his friends make their plans and set off one morning by boat into a deep river cavern near their homes. In due course they emerge in the Ice Age and, with various mishaps and adventures en route, the further they travel downriver the further back in geological time they go – entering the Jurassic, and finally the Devonian, where their river meets the sea, and they find real live trilobites on the shoreline.

The mood of the whole quest is very scientific, very sombre, and although they do encounter dinosaurs naturally, they encounter them naturally, and not as creatures from a monster movie. The Carboniferous swamps are particularly evocative, with dragonflies the size of eagles, and the whole film, given its age and budget, is a very creditable work of serious fantasy, although the producers' educational intent does translate as an interesting but not especially exciting trek through the epochs before man. It would impress no child today - after the marvels of "JURASSIC PARK" and "THE LOST WORLD" - but it is certainly more respectable than Stone Age romps of the "ONE MILLION YEARS B.C." variety (Raquel Welch's heaving breasts and Ray Harryhausen's stop-motion dinosaurs). And it is by a very long way more nourishing to the imagination than any dozen English-speaking children's productions of the same vintage. **Recommended.**

The actors are blended (as I recall) fairly well with the animation work and are not merely transposed onto animated backgrounds. Bejval was about 12, Holmstrom reckons. His other films, none of which I've seen, included "**MALY PARTYZAN**" ("The Little Partisan", 51), "**HASKOVY POVIDKY**" ("Stories by Hasek", 52) and "**KONEC STRASIDEL**" ("An End to Ghosts", 53). The other boys in the cast are not known.

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