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Circus op Stelten

("Circus on Stilts" – but also figuratively "Circus goes Haywire")

Netherlands : 1972 : dir. Karst van der Meulen : : 69 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

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Bert van Amstel; Annemarie van Doorenmalen; Ariane Kamerman; Andy Lehner; Ton Stello;
Jeroen Teijssen; René Teijssen; Jan Hertsenberg

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	□	≠	Z	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"Van der Meulen's first major film for young and old is an eye-opener. Five children put together an acrobatic routine, but the boss of a circus is not interested. Nevertheless their dream becomes reality. Van der Meulen's dream – of regularly making successful children's films – became a reality also. Who could have expected less after this charming, pleasurable debut? **½ "

[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"]

No further information currently available. From such of his work as I've seen, and reviews of the rest, Van der Meulen seems to be a children's film-maker of the English, rather than Scandinavian or Central European school, and his popularity in the Netherlands is simply an index of the dearth of quality Dutch-language children's material. However, Dutch critics (and domestic audiences) are very well placed to make comparisons between this local output and films from Sweden, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, East and West Germany etc, so there is little reason for being so gratified with titles like "**OOM FERDINAND EN DE TOVERDRANK**" ("Uncle Ferdinand and the Magic Potion", 74) or "**PETER EN DE VLIEGENDE AUTOBUS**" ("Peter and the Flying Bus", 76). Dutch children deserve better from their native cinema. They simply don't get it. Presumably Jeroen and René Teijssen are among the children, but none of the names listed are familiar child players from other Dutch productions.

See subject index under **CIRCUS** and **DIRECTORS**.