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Dark Enemy

UK : 1984 : dir. Colin Finbow : Children's Film Unit : 85 min
prod: Colin Finbow : scr: : dir.ph.: Anna Richardson & Andrew Fleury

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Rory MacFarquhar; Oliver Hicks; David Haig; Chris Chescoe; Martin Laing; Helen Mason;
Cerian van Doornick; Douglas Storm

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Source: 28th London Film Festival programme

The Time Out Film Guide review:

"Finbow set up the Children's Film Unit in 1981 in order to encourage youngsters to participate in all aspects of film-making, and it looks to be paying off. This, the unit's third film, is centred around a group of children who are living in a post-nuclear world, unaware of the civilisation before them. Only two Most Elders remain, the rest were either too young or not yet born at the time of the holocaust. And now the time has come for a new leader to be elected. Apart from a rather slow start, the film encompasses some excellent acting, a great music score, and a haunting underlying moral."

28th London Film Festival - 1984 -
programme review:

"The story begins on the edge of the Dark Time... The Valley People live surrounded by a forbidden and inhospitable wasteland, threatened in the night by the mysterious, faceless Moonchildren. But other times and different tales are spoken of by Ezra the Teller to the children of the valley, some of whom begin to question the wisdom of the Elders and the rules of their valley life. When a new leader must be chosen by a contest, the opportunity comes to explore beyond the hills, and behind the half-truths of the valley's recent past... "DARK ENEMY" is the third feature film (after "CAPTAIN STIRRICK" and "A SWARM IN MAY") by the Children's Film Unit, a unique organisation which introduces children to every aspect of film-making - behind and in front of the cameras - making highly professional and entertaining films."

- Sandy Broughton

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. The Children's Film Unit - sometimes confused with the Children's Film & TV Foundation - began life as an extra-curricular project while Finbow was a teacher at Forest Hill Boys' School, South London. Their output graduated from silent shorts to feature-length 16mm sound productions like "**SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES**" (78) and "**THE CUSTARD BOYS**" (80). Finbow left teaching and established the unit as an independent body with the aid of commercial sponsorship. The Children's Film Unit (more lately in collaboration with Channel 4) has produced a film every year since 1981.

See "**MAD MAX BEYOND THUNDERDOME**" (85) for a similar scenario, and subject index under **CHILDREN'S FILM UNIT**, **SCIENCE FICTION** and **STORYTELLERS**.