

Into the West

Eire / UK : 1992 : dir. Mike Newell : : 102 min
 prod: : scr: Jim Sheridan : dir.ph.:
Ciaran Fitzgerald; Ruaidhri Conroy
 Gabriel Byrne; Colm Meaney; Ellen Barkin; David Kelly; Johnny Murphy; John Kavanagh;
 Pauline Delaney

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
6145	1.5	3	0	650	-	-	-	-	-	No	unseen

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001 review:

"Dark, melancholy fable about two young brothers who flee their drab Dublin life (with a morose, widowed father) on the back of a mystical white horse. A highly original film with equal parts charms, dour Irish moods, and the theme of family and its inexorable pull on us all. Byrne was the film's associate producer. Written by Jim Sheridan. *** "

Radio Times Guide to Films review:

"A charming, unusually cast fable about two children who run away to the wild Irish hills on a white stallion, pursued by Gabriel Byrne and Ellen Barkin, playing gypsies. Set against some majestic scenery, this is partly a children's film that harks back to the genteel era of Ealing comedy, and partly an excursion into Gaelic myth, ably written by Jim Sheridan (of "MY LEFT FOOT" fame) and sensitively handled by Mike Newell, later the director of "FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL". It's poetic and sometimes weirdly comic. *** "

TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995 review:

"Partly a story about a boy and a horse, partly an allegory, and partly a story of finding yourself and leaving the past behind, this liltingly scored Irish movie has a good deal of charm, even if its pace, like that of the horse (white of course) varies from a trot to a gallop. The horse appears on the seashore, attaches itself to Grandpa Riley and clearly has a mission in life. Cottoning on to Riley's eight-

year old grandson Ossie, it settles into the family high-rise with Ossie's cool, protective older brother Tito and their father (Gabriel Byrne), an ex-traveller who has tried to settle to city life since the death of his wife and now lurches between odd jobs and the bottle.

The horse's jumping prowess brings it to the attention of Byrne's arch-enemy, the local (crooked) police inspector, who sees to it that the horse ends up in the hands of an equally corrupt businessman. The rest of the film concerns the boys' seizure of the horse during a show-jumping event and their subsequent flight into the west. The film goes a bit precious on us in an over-sentimental ending, but incidentals along the way – especially when boys and horse break into a cinema and watch a Western eating popcorn – more than make up for it. *** "

Cast:

Ossie Riley**Ciaran Fitzgerald**
 Tito Riley**Ruaidhri Conroy**
 Papa RileyGabriel Byrne
 KathleenEllen Barkin
 Grandpa WardDavid Kelly
 TrackerJohnny Murphy

[no listing in "Film Review 1991-92", "Halliwell's Film Guide", "The Critics' Film Guide", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. From a story by Michael Pearce. Escapism could scarcely get more explicit than this, the white horse wafting the boys away like the luck dragon of "**THE NEVERENDING STORY**", and the film perhaps begs comparison with "**JOSH AND S.A.M**" (93) in which two young brothers also hare off together – by car this time – into the Great Outdoors. Ciaran Fitzgerald may be brother of Gregg Fitzgerald, who played Fergus in the following year's remake of "**THE WAR OF THE BUTTONS**". Ciaran had an earlier lead in "**ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL**" as a rural boy thought to have had a vision of the Virgin Mary. Ruaidhri Conroy was seen the previous year in "**HEAR MY SONG**", and in 1995 made "**CLOCKWORK MICE**", "**NOTHING PERSONAL**" and "**MOONDANCE**".

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