

K graphic

Otto er et Naesehorn

("Otto is a Rhino")

Denmark : 1983 : dir. Rumle Hammerich : Metronome / D.F.I

: 90 min

prod: Bent Fabricius-Bjerre : scr: Rumle Hammerich & Mogens Kløvedal

: dir.ph.: Dan Lausten

[Kristjan Markersen](#)

Erik Petersen; Axel Strøbye; Kirsten Rolffes; Egon Stoldt; Ole Meyer; Judy Gringer

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω □ ≠ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5408	1½	1	1	3	- - - -	No	Pre 1990



Pachyderm off the port bow! (a familiar sailor's cry)

Source: 27th London Film Festival programme

27th London Film Festival (1983) programme review:

"First-time director Rumle Hammerich has been put in charge of "OTTO IS A RHINO", in which a magic pencil enables a lonely boy to draw anything on any wall and then see it come to life. When he draws a rhino, a yellow rhinoceros is suddenly at large on the second floor of an apartment house in a small town by the sea. The rhino (a beautiful piece of technical, very lifelike, work) is a friendly, even humorous animal, sidling quite naturally with such inhabitants of the house who will feed and accept him while taking no guff at all from the downstairs innkeeper who wants to steal the

magic pencil to start a brewery of his own... The little world of Topper is drawn in a particular kind of poetic baroque that will have children everywhere enjoying the innocent suspense [*sic*] of the plot while adults will laugh out loud at old-fashioned punch-lines and comical characters and new-fangled visual fun."

- Kell, *Variety*

[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)", "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"]

Adapted from a novel by Ole Lund Kierkegaard. Shown at the 1983 Berlin, Moscow, Cannes and Vancouver film festivals. The pleasures and pains of **OTTO** have faded in the memory, by which I infer it was neither a very good nor very bad children's film, seen in original Danish on Dutch TV. Topper (Kristjan Markersen) is about 12 and pining for his father, always away on long sea trips. Father is devoted to his boy and always brings him back something exotic from his travels. One of these gifts is the magic pen, which proves to be more magic than it ought, and Topper and his mate find themselves lumbered with a placid but hungry rhinoceros, decorated in large yellow flowers like the wallpaper it was scribbled on. Arranging feed for Otto, and concealing him from the landlord, becomes the boys' major logistical headache. In one scene (possibly after feeding) the rhino disappears clean through the floor into the flat below. The secret is out, but happily dad returns from the sea in the nick of time, and arranges passage for Otto to Africa, where even floral rhinoceroses belong. I seem to remember dad takes Topper with him on his next voyage, so all turns out to the boy's satisfaction. It's worth noting that the animal itself was fairly well done, if not exactly in the "**JUMANJI**" class, and it had to be for the story to hold water.

The idea of children's drawings (or children's picture book illustrations) coming to life had been done several times before, for example in "**THE MAGIC CHALKS**" (C.E.F.) and "**BOUNCER BREAKS UP**" (C.F.F.), but this one refreshingly avoids the option of animation, and makes Otto a very physical presence in the film. Nothing else is known of Markersen.

See subject index under **ANIMALS, FANTASY / FAIRY TALES / FOLK TALES** and **SCANDINAVIA**.