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De Rode Zwaan

("The Red Swan")

Netherlands : 1999 : dir. Martin Lagestee : First Floor

: 100 min

prod: Laurens Geels & Dick Maas : scr: Sjoerd Kuyper : dir.ph.: Lex Wertwijn

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Rufus Heikens; André van den Heuvel; Annet Nieuwenhuijzen; Sanne Himmelreich

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Nice use of colour. The image promises much in the NeverEnding Story vein, but effective fantasy is a very hard trick to pull off, in any language.

Source for all stills: CVMC website



*The lad is holding a swan. It is red. As if by magic, the title falls into place. And we **don't** need to discuss Freudian symbolism at this juncture, thank you very much.*

Excerpt from **Variety International Film Guide 2000** review of "ABELTJE":

"...It is a striking spectacle with, by Dutch standards, great special effects, and its success gave a huge boost to the already lively Dutch children's film scene. Ineke Houtman ("SCRATCHES ON THE TABLE") and Ger Poppelaars ("THE MISSING LINK") have also provided meritorious entertainment for the young in recent times, while new films by Martin Lageste ("THE RED SWAN") and Maria Peters ("LITTLE CRUMB") are on the way."

CVMC video retail/rental website review:

"A boy roughly twelve years of age discovers a portal to a different world where amphibian-like creatures are out to destroy humanity. Can our hero, his grandfather's old childhood sweetheart (who has failed to age) and a male peer put a stop to the madness before it is too late? Fun but bound to be best appreciated by those familiar with the film's language.

Rated NR: violence; brief profanity

Language: Dutch

Categories: Action/Adventure, Boy Films, Little to Preteen, Bullies & Teasing, Fantasy & Sci-Fi, First Love, Girl Films, Adolescent

NOTE: This movie is in Dutch with NO ENGLISH SUBTITLES OR DUBBING. "

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "The Critics' Film Guide" or "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995"]

No further information currently available. The notion of teaming up with your grandfather's childhood sweetheart, still a child, would have appealed to the sentimentality of J.M. Barrie.

See subject index under **BOY MEETS GIRL**, [FANTASY / FOLK TALES / FAIRY TALES](#) and presumably **GRANDPARENTS**.