

SUBJECT INDEX:

CHILDREN'S FILM UNIT

See also:

The Lion

1962: American lawyer is summoned by ex-wife to Kenya's Kirinyaga Game Reserve, where she fears their daughter (*Pamela Franklin*, 13) is in danger of "going native".

Mama I'm Crying

UK TV documentary (?) : Two women, one white, one black, who grew up together under apartheid in South Africa.

Sammy Going South

1963: 10-year old orphan (*Fergus McClelland*) travels 4,500 miles from Port Said to Durban via mule, train, steamboat and on foot, aided and hampered by various adults en route.

address: The Children's Film Unit, Suite 9, Hamilton House, 66 Upper Richmond Road, London SW15 2RP

tel: 0181 871 2006

fax: 0181 871 2140

(See glossy information folder from the unit in archive sundries)

A film-making co-operative staffed predominantly by adolescents, established by former South London teacher Colin Finbow as an offshoot of his Forest Hill Boys' School Film Unit. From the outset Finbow encouraged the players to stretch their emotional range, develop a broader emotional vocabulary, so to speak, and the themes of the unit's work reflect this. The projects are shot (most recently for Channel 4 TV) exclusively by adolescent technicians under Finbow's personal supervision, with professional adult actors lending their services to an amateur juvenile cast. Much admired at film festivals as a breeding ground for nascent talent, the unit's ultimate seal of establishment approval as a worthy cause came with the securing of Prince Edward as their president.

Special permission was obtained from author Ray Bradbury to produce their adaptation of his book (later shot by Disney) while the unit was still an adjunct of the (state) school. Earlier productions had suffered from poor sound quality, but the technical standard of the Unit's work has improved steadily as it gained support within the industry (Steven Spielberg, in the UK to supervise "YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE PYRAMID OF DOOM" for American TV, visited the unit and gave it his fulsome endorsement). Strangely, the unit's work is not often seen even on British children's TV, though that may be more for technical than artistic reasons.

The unit boasts as patrons: Sir Richard Attenborough, Glenda Jackson, David Puttnam, John Mortimer & Dr John Rae

- 1978 Something Wicked This Way Comes
- 1980 The Custard Boys [a remake of "REACH FOR GLORY"]
- 1981 Captain Stirrick
- 1982 A Swarm In May

1983 Dark Enemy
1984 Mister Skeeter [won Prix Danube, Bratislava 1987]
1985 Daemon
1986 School For Vandals
1987 Infantile Disorders [Ch 4 TV]
1988 Under the Bed[Ch 4 TV]
1988 Hard Road[Ch 4 TV]
1989 Doombeach[Ch 4 TV]
1990 Survivors[Ch 4 TV]
1991 How's Business[Ch 4 TV]
1992 Emily's Ghost[Ch 4 TV]
1995 Willie's War

See also:

The Lowdown: "The Big Picture" - 1991 ch TV documentary on work of the Unit.

Non-fiction

The Eton of Africa

BBC c1991: Former headmaster of Westminster school visits the elite Kamuzu Academy.

~ 17 titles ~