



FLAKLYPA GRAND PRIX (PINCHCLIFFE GRAND PRIX) is a November, 2015 LVCA dvd donation to the Ligonier Valley Library. Below is Kino Ken's review of that dvd film.

Norway 1975 color 84 minutes subtitled / dubbed in English feature animation comedy Restored version. Caprino Filmcenter A/S (On Caprino's World of Adventure, Part 1, available through Amazon) Producer: Ivo Caprino

18 of a possible 20 points

****** ½ of a possible *******

Key: *indicates outstanding technical achievement or performance

(j) designates juvenile performer

Points:

- 2 Direction: Ivo Caprino**
- 2 Editing: Ivo Caprino**
- 2 Camera: Charles Patey, Ivo Caprino, Per Hauge**
- 1 Lighting, original version (But the restored version is a 2.)**
- 2 Screenplay: Ivo Caprino, Remo Caprino (son of Ivo), Kjell Aukrust, Kjell Nyverson, based on characters from children's books by Kjell Aukrust**
- 2 Music: Bent Fabricius Bjerre***
- 2 Set Decoration and Models: Bjarne Sandemose Models: Ingeborg Riiser Set Decoration and Dolls: Gerd Alfsen**
- 2 Animation: Ivo Caprino**
- 2 Sound: Aage Andersen Sound Designer, 1995 reissue: Petter Fladeby Dialogue Director: Erik Lassen**
- Sound Recording: Jacob Trier, Aage Andersen**
- Narrator: Leif Juster**
- 1 Voices Cast**

18 total points

Voices Cast: Frank Robert (Reodor Flegen, a.k.a. Theodore Rimpoke, bicycle repairman), Leif Juster / Derek Guyler (Narrator), Helge Reiss (Rudolph Gore-Slimey, villain, Theodore's former assistant), Kari Simonsen (Sunny Duckworth, a.k.a. Solan Gundersen, a magpie, optimistic assistant to Theodore), Toralv Maurstad (Lambert, either a mole or a hedgehog --- its creators seemed contradictory about its genus; a.k.a. Ludwig, a pessimistic assistant to Theodore), Wenche Foss (Enkefru Stengelfohn-Glad, woman wearing a living fox muffler at the opening race ceremony in Pinchcliffe), Harald Heide-Steen, Jr. (Emanuel Desperados, a monkey born beside the Limpopo River who serves as mechanic / chauffeur / chess opponent of Sheik Ben Redic Fy Fazan, a.k.a. Sheikh Abdul Ben Bonanza; also an expert drummer), Per Theodor Haugen (TV Reporter Archibald Skrimshank), Rolf Just Nilsen (Roger Jurtappen / Ollvar Kleppvold / Hallstein Bronskunlet / Jostein Kroksleiven, a.k.a. Roger Uddersfield, district veterinary surgeon / dairy manager Oliver Claphwaite / Hanbury Dapplenag, a poet)

Norway's most famous feature animation export, FLAKLYPA GRAND PRIX, came about oddly through rejection of a planned television series. Rather than completely abandoning a project which had occupied several artists for years, the Caprinos decided to utilize available character puppets and background sets for a feature film. True, animation supervisor Ivo Caprino had never before attempted a full-length feature animation. But if Disney could manage it, the task was clearly not an impossibility. However, with a core group of only five persons to create this film, both financial backing and creation of a reasonable production schedule were far from assured. Nonetheless, over a period of three and one-half years the team constructed a unique racing animation. The finished film premiered in 1975, quickly becoming all-time box office earnings champion of the Norwegian motion picture industry.

What makes the film so attractive? First, its offbeat characters. These include an eternal optimist and a milquetoast pessimist. Their opposite

philosophies provide lively contrast throughout the film. Second, the climactic race sequences are still today riveting to watch. The impression viewers receive of sitting next to a competitive driver as he zooms his way along the course is unshakeable and unsettlingly vivid. Third, an energetic, buoyant score by Bent Fabricius Bjerre supplies a mix of pop melodic lines and jazzy rhythms, an ingratiating combination. Fourth, detailed set decorations and auto models are convincingly authentic, if miniature. Fifth, the willingness of director Caprino to insert purely atmospheric scenes, such as the one depicting inventor Rimspoke's solitary harmonica nocturne. With the main character's back turned from the viewer, posture, music, and scenery reinforce each other in the best tradition of silent cinema. No intrusive dialogue is required. This kind of setting, common enough in the 1920s, was almost impossibly anachronistic five decades later. Surprise! It still worked.

The main storyline of PINCHCLIFFE GRAND PRIX concerns efforts of upbeat Sonny Duckworth to manipulate his boss, tinkerer and mechanic Theodore Rimspoke, into creating and racing a Grand Prix car. Television news informs inhabitants of Pinchcliffe that the inventor's former apprentice is using a secret technology to make himself consistent winner of Grand Prix races. This proves insufficient to compel the designer of that advanced carburetor, Theodore Rimspoke, into a public challenge. Sonny resolves to promote a racing duel independently, enlisting financial assistance from a Saudi oil sheik who happens to be camped out in the valley Rimspoke's house and workshop overlook. Though initially rebuffed and ejected by Emanuel Desperados, monkey mechanic and designated bouncer for the foreign tycoon, Sonny counters with a tipoff to local news media. Word spreads rapidly, if erroneously, that Rimspoke accepts the broadcast challenge of Rudolph Gore-Slimey. He will enter his Il Tempo Gigante model into Grand Prix competition against the veteran racer, with their trial event to be conveniently set just outside Pinchcliffe itself. Sheikh Abdul Ben Bonanza will ante up necessary cash to outfit the local competitor's vehicle. Despite misgivings by pessimistic Lambert, whose fears are well-founded, preparations for a showdown progress. In the interim, Rudolph and his

assistant stealthily sabotage Rimspoke's machinery, insuring a most interesting competition, to say the least.

Intentionally ludicrous passages of translated dialogue embellish the screenplay. Samples: "We come to have pow-wow." This is spoken by the sheikh. "Knock up the door." "Don't listen to that Jeremiah." What other feature animation can offer such gems? As above excerpts indicate, running conversation is designed to entertain adults while visuals are crafted to enchant children.

Sponsor of the determining event is Aladdin Oil, a name to remember right alongside ACME. Strangely, Rimspoke prefers to use his own fuel formula, making his backer's product purely decorative. Already it's obvious advertising trumps reality.

Voice characterizations are delightfully idiosyncratic and individuated. Sound recording overall was deftly overhauled by 1995 restorers.

Similar felicitous improvements in lighting contrasts were also made then. A featurette depicting evolution of both picture and sound quality over successive film releases is one of the dvd extras provided. There are also brief biographies of four Caprinos representing four generations of artistry, an exhaustive filmography of Ivo Caprino, an overview of the history of FLAKLYPA GRAND PRIX, and pictorial scene selections.

Though rated G by the MPAA, this film treasure contains a suggestive belly dance and two profanities, making it suitable for teens rather than younger siblings. Adults will also find much to relish.

By all means, take the opportunity to see this classic. Use the Union Jack option to proceed to an English-dubbed version.

One warning: due to some manufacturing defect, conclusion credits lead automatically back to the entry menu. That entry menu refuses to respond to the stop command from a remote control. To bypass this impediment, enter anything from the menu. Then press stop.