



DUNDERKLUMPEN from Sweden is an LVCA dvd donation to the Hugh Stoupe Memorial Library of the Heritage United Methodist Church of Ligonier, Pennsylvania. Below is Kino Ken's review of that dvd film.

**Sweden 1974 color 87 minutes feature pixilation dubbed in English
AB Europa Film / GK-Film, Sweden Producers: Gunnar Carlsson,
Lynn Manwaring (English-dubbed version)**

10 of a possible 20 points

****1/2 of a possible *******

Key: *indicates outstanding technical achievement or performance

(j) designates juvenile performer

Points:

- Direction: Per Ahlin, Paulette Rubinstein (English-dubbed version)**
- 1 Editing: ? (Swedish version), Lawrence Marine (English-dubbed version)**
- 1 Animation Camera: Per Svensson, Lennart Carlsson**
- 1 Lighting**
- 1 Animation: Tibor Beby, Hans Ake Gabrielsson, Birgitta Jansson,
Kjeld Simonsen, Ib Steinaa, Per Svensson, Per Ahlin**
- 0 Script: Beppe Wolgers, Paulette Rubinstein (English-dubbed version)**
- 1 Music: Jean "Toots" Thielemans Arrangements: Claes Rosendahl**
- 1 Production Design**
- 2 Sound: Jan-Erik Lundberg*, Bjorn Almstedt* Sven Fahlen*,
Lars Klettner***
- Sound Mixer, English Version: Jack Cooler***

0 Voice Acting

2 Creativity

10 total points

Swedish Voices Cast: Halvar Bjork, Beppe Wolgers, Jens Wolgers

English Voices Cast: Kenneth Harvey (Dunderklumpen), Don Scardino (Dummy), Chuck Magruder (Mountain Jorm), Paulette Rubinstein (Elvira Fattigan), Jean "Toots" Thielemans (Pellegnillot), Jerry Stoka (Lionel / Bee), Liane Curtis* (Doll), Rose Marie Jun (Blossom), Bill Marine (One Eye), George Coe (Old House)

Midsummer Eve, the most magical time of the year in Sweden. It's eleven o'clock. Young Jens is still drawing pictures in his treehouse, though parents have decided to call him for bedtime. The sky is still light, as there will be little or no night on this longest day of the year.

Not even waiting for the stroke of midnight, fantastic tramp Dunderklumpen is out and about, crossing a nearby lake in pursuit of toys, his obsession. This animated trespasser soon arrives at Jens' house, climbing a conveniently placed ladder to enter a bedroom where the boy's sister Camilla sleeps soundly. In this place are several enticing toys: a rabbit sock puppet called En Dum En or Dummy, whiny little girl doll Dockan with a passion for sweets, a harmonica-playing stuffed bear named Pellegnillot, and Lejone, a tiny plush lion. All are crammed into a sack, intended as diversions for lonely Dunderklumpen. On the way out, this collecting intruder stumbles over a toy casket he identifies as a treasure box. Without opening it to inspect the contents, Dunderklumpen adds the find to earlier pilferings. Then he's off. Yet not before a strident appeal for help issues from Camilla's verbose doll Dockan.

Jens hears her plea and descends to the ground. After untethering a pet goat, he sets out in pursuit.

Attracted to the sugar cube intentionally left beside Papa Beppe's coffee mug, an animated bee called Humlan rewards its donor by informing him of what has transpired. Papa seeks additional information and directions. After brief hesitation, busy buzzer decides to volunteer his assistance.

Repeated calls from father to son go unanswered. For Jens is preoccupied with tracking Dunderklumpen and recovering stolen toys, preferably before Camilla awakens and discovers their absence.

In their ensuing chase, Jens and Beppe meet an assortment of odd animated figures. These include Enöga or One Eye, a greedy counterfeitor who uses his worthless creations to distract Dunderklumpen and grab his locked chest. Interception by curious crow leads to further complications when that bird collides with another. Coffer passes from carrier to carrier, alternating between lost item and restored loot.

Some unexpected help comes from Blossom, a kind of Mary Poppins-in-a-seed fairy. She recruits friendly moving mountain giant Jatten Jorm to frustrate One Eye's plans. Jorm has a penchant for bathing undisturbed in lakes. Not tonight, however.

Jens eventually closes in on chief troublemakers Dunderklumpen and One Eye. But his efforts are ultimately no more successful than those of blundering Beppe, who demolishes an automobile and a pair of skis, while doing serious damage to his wardrobe as well. Coming to a deserted talking lodge in the woods, Dunderklumpen and no-longer-resistant traveling companions are chased out by a fire One Eye sets. Temporary banishment of arsonist fails to forestall more villainy. Can anyone stop that misanthropic thief?

One pursuer after another knocks into an old woman who happens to be in their path. Only Dockan, who has been rather inexplicably mellowing, stops to ask if she has been injured. The accident victim identifies herself as Elvira Fattigan, a complete antithesis to her namesake, the young and beautiful acrobat. This Elvira is an old acquaintance of One Eye who can still remember his childhood innocence. Perhaps she might be able to reform him.

Who will end up with the treasure? And just what is hidden inside the coffer? Watch the remainder of the movie to find out.

Kino Ken wishes to thank Internet user Gregor Rönqvist of Stromsund, Sweden for information in his September 18, 2002 posting about original Swedish character names and the shooting district for the movie.

Pixilation in this picture has dated considerably. Animated movements are awkward and clash with framing live action shots. Nor are relentlessly simplistic story line and repetitive dialogue inducements for viewing.

While cinematography is of standard 1970s videotape quality, grainy and tonally dull, sound recording faithfully captures tonal nuances.

Voice acting is largely undistinguished, one significant exception being Liane Curtis as obnoxious Dockan, a kind of tow-headed Little My.

Varying between jazz and folk styles, the score by Jean "Toots" Thielemans recalls Eddy Manson's accompaniment for LITTLE FUGITIVE. Its songs are simple and addictive.

Physical acting in live action segments is preposterously amateur. English dubbing is heavy-handed, an insult to child viewers.

Transitions between scenes are handled awkwardly, continuity being barely present. Dialogue which limits itself to a few frequently reiterated lines suggests minimal screenwriting imagination and no verbal dexterity.

Nonetheless, preschool and primary grade children will probably enjoy sheer nonsensical situations presented, as well as the stupidity of most story participants. Themes of redemption, cooperation, and wisdom of seniors are spotlighted, which will likely win parental endorsement. Older children and adults, beware. Here are no subtleties of either design or execution. This picture is akin to a nursery version of adult cousin A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, lacking the latter's unique verbal pyrotechnics and medley of romantic misunderstandings. It's amiably cheerful fare for the sandbox set only.