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The Camel Boy

Australia : 1984 : dir. Yoram Gross : : 72 min
prod: Yoram Gross : scr: Yoram Gross & John Palmer : dir.ph.: Graham Sharp

Voiced by: Barbara Frawley; Ron Haddrick; John Meillion; Robyn Moore; Michael Pate

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ ∅ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
2247a	1½	2	0	457	7 - - - -	No	<i>unseen</i>

The Virgin Film Guide review:

"A technically superb children's film that combines animated characters with actual Australian backgrounds. Beginning in the 1920s, **"THE CAMEL BOY"** tells the story of Ali, a young Arab lad who ventures across the Great Victoria Desert with his camel-driver grandfather. They are subjected to radical shifts in weather – first a torrential downpour, then a dangerous dry spell – and an attack by wild dogs before they are forced to turn back.

Twenty years pass, grandfather dies, and Ali becomes a police officer in his native land. He catches another young camel boy who is suspected of being a spy – an Australian – who gets himself on a ship carrying camels to the Arab nation. A choice pick for youngsters, who'll marvel at the visuals and empathise with the delightful characters. *** "

[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" or "Video Movie Guide 1993"]

TV Quick review:

"A young Arab boy, Ali, joins a doomed camel trek across the Australian wilderness. An animated adventure, set against real-life footage. ** "

"Charming animated adventures of a young Arab boy and his grandpa who sail to Australia in the twenties to find work as camel drivers in the desert."

No further information currently available. They're a bit keen on this sort of thing in the underworld - this and endless TV soaps about the mating rituals of elderly teenage virgins. "**DOT AND THE KANGAROO**" was one of a little flotilla of short kids' features combining animated characters with live footage. Animation generally falls outside the scope of this archive - there is simply far too much production-line cartooning on children's TV, and the quality is so poor - but a number of features have combined live action and animation with varying degrees of success - "**MARY POPPINS**", "**BEDKNOBS AND BROOMSTICKS**", "**THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH**" and more recently Macaulay Culkin's "**THE PAGEMASTER**", and these are covered in the subject index under **ANIMATION / LIVE ACTION COMBINATIONS**.

See also under **ARAB WORLD / MIDDLE EAST, AUSTRALASIA, GRANDPARENTS** and **REFUGEES / IMMIGRANTS**.