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Paw

(aka: "Boy of Two Worlds")

Denmark / Netherlands : 1959 : dir. Astrid & Bjarne Henning-Jensen : : 92 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

[Jimmy Sterman](#); [Freddy Pedersen](#)

Edvin Adolphson; Holger Löwenadler; Ebba Amfeldt; Asbjørn Andersen; Svend Bille; Ego Brønnum-Jacobsen; Edith Hermansen; Rigmor Hvidfeldt; Arthur Jensen; Helge Kjærulff-Schmidt; Finn Lassen; Karen Lykkehus; Preben Neergaard; Poul Smyrner; Karl Stegger; Ninja Tholstrup

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω 8 ≠ M ☼	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Source: CMVC website



Man's inhumanity to man – played out for us by pretty children. It's enough to bring a warm glow to the liberal heart.

Sadly, real life is not as comfortable as a moral parable for children, and the thesis that we are all just the same below the skin, that cultures will blend seamlessly if we only become colour-blind, has been demonstrated manifestly false in a Europe saturated with economic migration.

A single Paw in Denmark is not a problem obviously, and the prejudices he encounters are just raw xenophobia. But half a million Paws in Denmark could very well become a social problem, particularly when they themselves are every inch as racist and xenophobic toward the host culture, as is too often the case.

*It brings no warm glow to the liberal heart to contemplate **that** reality, and no children's parables are ever made about immigrants bullying native children, although that too is a commonplace in today's schools.*

Image source: Moving Picture Boy

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"A West Indian orphan is sent to a family in Denmark, where he is discriminated against because of his colour, and has problems fitting in. He finds consolation in nature and in a friendship with a poacher. This sensitive, but not sentimental, children's film abandons the characters and problems all too often for chunks of naturalist documentary, which acquire a picture book character through the shrill colours. The young lead is Dutch. ****1/2**"

CVMC video retail/rental website review:

"Recently orphaned, a boy of about ten named Paw from the West Indies is brought to his father's homeland of Denmark so that he might there reside with his aunt. Despite Danish tolerance, the lad learns that prejudice can come in many forms, especially when his remaining relative dies and none of the locals are too keen on having a dark-skinned foster child. Yet, Paw has an

affinity with an older poacher, finds a home with the man, that is until the fellow's "career" threatens their relationship. Might the well-to-do landowner who is pressing charges take pity on those less fortunate than himself, keep Paw with his new "dad" and out of reform school? A nicely done piece that can appeal to adults as much as children and which has social commentary still relevant for today's world.

Rated NR: violence; mild adult themes [sic]

Language: Danish (with English dubbing)

Categories: Boy Films, Little to Preteen, Adolescent, Bullies & Teasing, Drama, Home Alone "

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Serman:

"The hero of Astrid Henning-Jensen's short film "**PAW**" – about racial prejudice among children – had a Dutch mother and a West Indian father. He was so obviously sweet-natured and unassuming that it came as a shock to see him, on the

screen, persecuted by a group of healthy little Danes. Paw comes to live in a coastal village in Zealand, and his life is made such hell by the local kids – a blond brute called Marius, played by Freddy Pedersen, is particularly hateful – that he escapes into a nearby forest where he is befriended, briefly, by a poacher, before being sent to a reformatory, escaping again, and living on an island with only a fox cub for companion. **"PAW"** won a Grand Prix at the 1960 Cannes Film Festival, plus a Gold Medal from the Council of Europe and a Hollywood nomination for best foreign film of the year. It has been sadly ignored of late."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Bloomsbury Foreign Film Guide", "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", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. You might expect a film which attracted such plaudits on its release to be treated with greater respect, but no, it too is ignored by all the film guides. It was made for children, you see.

Poaching as a force for social good was the cornerstone of Roald Dahl's child-friendly **"DANNY, THE CHAMPION OF THE WORLD"**, with a nice father and son double act from Jeremy Irons and son Samuel, while poachers friendly and unfriendly are a fixture in pastoral dramas. Jimmy Serman was 12, but no further films are indicated for him. Nothing else is known of Freddy Pedersen.

See subject index under (are you ready for this?) **ANIMALS**, [BULLYING](#), **THE CHILD AS POLITICAL SYMBOL**, **DISCRIMINATION / PREJUDICE**, [ORPHANS / ADOPTION](#), [OSCAR WINNERS / AWARD WINNERS](#), **POACHERS / GAMEKEEPERS**, **PRISON / BORSTAL**, **REFUGEES / EVACUEES / IMMIGRANTS**, **RUNAWAYS / STOWAWAYS**, [SCANDINAVIA](#) and [SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS](#).