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Veidiferdin

("The Fishing Trip")

Iceland : 1980 : dir. Andrés Indridason :

: ? min

prod: Gísli Gestsson : scr: Andrés Indridason : dir.ph.: Gísli Gestsson

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Gudmundur Klemensson; Yrsa Björt Löve; Kristín Björgvinsdóttir; Sigurdur Karlsson;
Sigríður Thorvaldsdóttir; Pétur Einarsson; Arni Ibsen; Halli and Laddi

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ ∄ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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*Oh joy – another kids-outwit-the-crooks romp, with Iceland's Abbott and Costello providing the laffs.
Source: International Film Guide 1981*

International Film Guide 1981 review:

"Promoted as family entertainment, **"THE FISHING TRIP"** is an adventure tale where children are of key importance, in a way calling to mind the style of Britain's famous Enid Blyton. The gist of the plot is that cheerful youngsters, during an outing for fishing trout, discover suspicious activities and manage to have a pair of criminals captured – while several other things are in progress. In a word, the film depends on a formula that was obviously chosen as a guarantee of popularity, with two comedians dear to the heart of all Icelandic

children included in the cast for a good measure.

Apart from various technical shortcomings, the chief weakness of the film is that the Icelandic Abbott and Costello never get linked to the action in any significant way. All that notwithstanding, the box office figures reported for the work are impressive."

- Björn Vignir Sigurpálsson

"...[Other barriers] and financial insecurity in general, appear in most cases not to have affected the film-makers' choice of subject

matter. The subjects of the nine projects that received the first awards of the Film Fund indicate, more than anything else, the film-makers' desire to reflect and interpret their country's cultural heritage and national characteristics... Pure entertainment is – perhaps with one exception – not their goal...

The only feature film made in 1979 which does not basically share this thematic choice is "VEIDIFERDIN" ("The Fishing Trip"), directed and written by Andrés Indridason and premiered in March 1980. Indridason, who is an experienced producer with Icelandic television and has worked extensively on projects for children (including an award-winning book), has made a children's adventure film based on a fairly international entertainment formula, using Iceland's most famous and beautiful tourist spot, Thingvellir, as a backdrop. In fact, all these films were made on location since there is no real film studio in Iceland, and use Icelandic landscape as an instrument of expression.

It seems that Icelandic film audiences were ready for this awakening. Both "LAND OG SYNIR" and "VEIDIFERDIN" have been enthusiastically received by the public. "LAND OG SYNIR" will have been seen by at least 90,000 people (the population is some 220,000) by year's end. "VEIDIFERDIN" has also been a box office hit. Each film has made a handsome profit." – Árni Thorarinsson

[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", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Let's not make undue allowance for this because it originates in a country with a tiny native film industry. Crap from Iceland is still crap. The poverty of imagination I've so often railed against in British children's films is by no means unique to our shores, and formulaic smart kids/dopey adults "adventures" materialise even from Scandinavia, which produces the best children's films in the world.

When the writer says Halli and Laddi are "dear to the hearts of all Icelandic children", this presumably only means they are regular fixtures on Icelandic children's TV, which is not the same thing at all. Children have no input on such matters, and must eat what is put on the table before them. "Blue Peter" has been a regular fixture of BBC children's broadcasting for thirty years, not because the viewing audience loved it so much, but because successive heads of children's programming believed they did.

See subject index under **BOATS & FISHING**, **KIDS OUTWIT THE CROOKS** and **SCANDINAVIA** .