

# West of Zanzibar

UK : 1954 : dir. Harry Watt : Ealing : 94 min  
 prod: Leslie Norman : scr: Max Catto & Jack Whittingham : dir.ph.: Paul Beeson  
[William Simons](#) .....  
 Anthony Steel; Sheila Sim; Edric Connor; Orlando Martins; Howard Marion Crawford;  
 Martin Benson

| Ref:  | Pages | Sources | Stills | KBytes | Ω □ € Z ∞ | Copy on VHS | Last Viewed |
|-------|-------|---------|--------|--------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 3538a | 2     | 4       | 1      | 3      | - - - -   | No          | Unseen      |



Anthony Simons (left) with wild beast of the locale

Source: indeterminate

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996 review:

"Ivory hunters meet up with jungle obstacles and native tribes; Steel and Sim share the adventures. \*\* "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review - identical to above

Halliwell's Film Guide review:

"Native tribesmen move towards Mombasa and are drawn into ivory smuggling. Fairly feeble follow-up to **"WHERE NO VULTURES FLY"**; quite good to look at but clearly not an original."

The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television review:

"Anthony Steel looking tough but acting weakly in his tracking-down of an ivory-poaching gang. Sheila Sim is a precise match for his milk-and-water heroics. Harry Watt's message seemed to be that the simple African folk were better off under the paternalistic British administrators; a comforting fiction in 1954. 77 "

TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995 review:

"Sequel to the 1951 Royal Film Performance movie **"WHERE NO VULTURES FLY"**, retaining the same director and producer, Harry Watts and Leslie Norman, and having Anthony Steel once again as the game warden Bob Payton. He shares the Hollywood hero's ability to come through the most vicious fight with no more than a spotless handkerchief tied around one bulging bicep. \*\* "

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "A Pictorial History of the Talkies", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Time Out Film Guide", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Not to be confused with a 1928 Tod Browning film of the same name (based on the play "Kongo") starring Lon Chaney. The 1951 precursor to this one also featured William Simons as Steel's son, although he has higher billing here. That story concerned the establishment of Mount Kilimanjaro game reserve, and in addition to the kudos and snobbery appeal of selection as the year's Royal Film Performance, it was a big box office hit in the UK. But the public could only take so much colonial sanctimoniousness, and the sequel fared less well.

Many of the post-war Tarzan's have suffered from the same preachy white man's conservationism which, while politically sound and irreproachable, does not make for very exciting escapism in what was once romantically "the dark continent". The title, nevertheless, is reaching for that same air of exotica. After genocidal race war in Rwanda, with Zimbabwe on the verge of economic meltdown, and with several civil wars raging elsewhere on the continent, there must be not a few Africans who *do* feel they were better off under relatively benign colonial administration. However, that refuses to tally with current political orthodoxy.

Simons looks bonny and appealing, in any case. He made earlier appearances in **"NO PLACE FOR JENNIFER"** (49), **"THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE"** (50) and **"PRELUDE TO FAME"** (50, starring Jeremy Spenser). Nothing further is known about him.

See subject index under **AFRICA** and **POACHERS / SMUGGLERS**.