

SUBJECT INDEX:

**CHILDREN'S FILM
(& TV) FOUNDATION**

See also: Children's Entertainment Films (Rank)

NFT Bulletin – April/June 1976 – profile:

"The NFT is devoting its entire Junior NFT season to 'join in the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Children's Film Foundation. Ten features, plus supports, will be shown. All are "U" certificate and in colour. They represent a cross section of the many excellent movies being made by the CFF, using top technicians and artists. We have invited Henry Geddes, Executive Producer of the CFF, to supply the introduction to the season. Other notes are by Brian Baxter.

"The CFF is without parallel in any other country for it is only in the UK that all sections of the commercial film industry have combined to sponsor an Organisation solely to the production and distribution of films especially designed for children. Its production finance is derived mainly through a grant from the British Film Production Fund, supplemented by generous trade discounts, union concessions and senior technicians and artists supplying their services at a fraction of their normal commercial rate.

CFF films are made solely with children in mind and their success stem from the attention which is paid to the needs of the audience. Continuous research carried out over more than thirty years has established that films should be presented in terms of visual action rather than clever dialogue and that directional gimmicks and the introduction of sequences not immediately related to the story should be avoided. CFF features are normally limited to about one hour's duration and this appears to correspond with the concentration span of the average nine year old. Although CFF films are normally made for showing at the special Saturday matinees which are held at some 600 cinemas throughout the UK, they are equally successful abroad, being screened in some 47 overseas territories.

During the past year, they have won three major Awards at international Festivals and the organiser of the Los Angeles Children's Film Festival stated 'with good reason we look to the CFF as the leading producer of films specifically for children'. I can only hope that NFT audiences will share this opinion."-H.G "

International Film Guide 1976 profile:

"The Children's Film Foundation is a non-profit-making Organisation set up in 1951 by the British Film Industry to ensure the production and distribution of entertainment films especially designed for children. Although the films are primarily intended for screening at the 725 commercial cinemas which run special matinees for children throughout the United Kingdom, they are also available in 16mm and are in great demand in numerous overseas territories. The Directors of the Foundation are nominated by the five trade associations and the Federation of Film Unions, who also appoint the Chairman (Sir John Davis), and all

serve voluntarily. The day to day running of the Foundation is in the hands of a small permanent staff and Henry Geddes has been the Executive Producer since 1964.

Its films are mainly stories of achievement, adventure, comedy and drama and almost invariably have young people in the leading roles. The stories are selected by a voluntary Production Committee, and made into films by commercial producers at a fixed budget. Production finance is provided mainly by a grant from the British Film Production Fund, but this is augmented by special discounts and donations from all branches of the Industry. The co-operative attitude adopted by the Unions and by artists and senior technicians, who invariably accept far below the normal commercial rates on Children's Film Foundation films, ensures that high quality films are produced at a very modest cost. The films are distributed to every children's matinee in the United Kingdom on a rotation basis. As the audience is constantly growing up and therefore changing, films are re-issued every eight years.

During 1975, the Children's Film Foundation will make seven one-hour features, and twelve short comedies, bringing the Foundation library up to 120 tailor-made features, thirty-two serials and numerous shorts. In addition to its own production, the Foundation also adapts suitable overseas films and distributes them through the United Kingdom. Overseas 35mm Distribution is handled for the Children's Film Foundation by Rank Film Distributors. 16mm Home Distribution is handled for the Children's Film Foundation by the Rank Film Library and Columbia-Warner. The Children's Film Foundation is now the major distributor of children's matinees, despatching well over 1,150 prints each week.

HENRY GEDDO "

Filmography

1953	The Clue of the Missing Ape	[Gaumont British for CFF] Sea Scout and daughter of Naval officer thwart foreign saboteurs on Gibraltar (who first attempt to poison the monkeys). With <i>Roy Savage</i> and <i>Nati Bandar</i>
1954	Johnny on the Run	
c1955	Tim Driscoll's Donkey	
1956	One Wish Too Many	
1957	The Kid from Canada	Bernard Braden's son <i>Christopher Braden</i> plays a Canadian boy on holiday with cousins in Scotland. His bragging creates friction on a pony trek until he redeems himself by rescuing a shepherd.
1958	The Carrington School Mystery	8 x serial. Five children club together to vindicate the name of a schoolmate accused of a museum robbery. With <i>Anthony Richmond</i>
1958	The Salvage Gang	Four children have to retrace an old bedstead they sold for scrap metal. With <i>Frazer Hines</i> etc
1959	The Cat Gang	
1962	They Found a Cave	Australia TV - Four UK orphans in Tasmania run away and set up home in a cave when their aunt is taken into hospital.
1963	Go Kart Go!	
1964	Eagle Rock	
1965	Runaway Railway	
1966	Operation Third Form	In effort to clear classmate accused of stealing the school bell, kids stumble across genuine crooks. With <i>John Moulder-Brown</i> , <i>Kevin Bennett</i> , <i>Roberta Tovey</i>
1967	Flash the Sheepdog	
1968	Cry Wolf	
	Lionheart [?]	
c1969	The Big Catch	
1970	Big Wheels and Sailor	
1971	Blinker's Spy-Spotter	
	Hoverbug	
	Mr Horatio Knibbles	Girl denied a pet rabbit by her parents is befriended by a 6ft invisible one in top hat and waistcoat. With <i>Lesley Roach</i>

	Raising the Roof [?]	
1972	The Boy Who Turned Yellow	
	Danger Point	
	Rangi's Catch	
	Swot [?]	With <i>Edward Kemp</i>
	The Trouble with 2b	6x series
c1972	Kadoyng	
1974	The Firefighters	
	The Hostages	
	What Next?	
	Where's Johnny?	
	The Zoo Robbery	
1975	The Battle of Billy's Pond	
	Hijack!	
	The Man From Nowhere	
	One Hour To Zero [?]	
	Robin Hood Junior	
1976	Chimpmates [and 77/78]	Serials (of 6, 7 and 6 episodes) revolving around a family who adopt a frisky chimp. With <i>Dexter Fletcher, Lynne Morgan, Marcus Evans</i>
	Glitterball	
	The Copter Kids	
1979	The Boy Who Never Was	
	Danger on Dartmoor	
	Electric Eskimo	
1981	4D Special Agent	
1982	Island of Adventure [?]	
1984	Breakout	Two kids chance on a group of escaped convicts and are kidnapped, but befriended by one of the crooks. With <i>Simon Nash, John Hasler</i>
	Pop Pirates	
	The Astronoughts [absent from 1972 catalogue]	
	The Brno Trail [Czech film redubbed]	
	Danny, the Champion of the World	
	Daylight Robbery	
	Egghead's Robot	
	Haunters of the Deep	
	A Hitch In Time	
	My Friend Walter	
	Project Z	8x serial

~ 57 titles ~