



## The Children's Film Foundation Collection Weird Adventures

The last feature made by the distinguished duo of Powell and Pressburger is one of three films featured on a new volume of Children's Film Foundation tales, *Weird Adventures*, released on DVD by the BFI on 17 June 2013.

This latest collection brings together Alberto Cavalcanti's *The Monster of Highgate Ponds* (1961), Powell and Pressburger's *The Boy Who Turned Yellow* (1972) and *A Hitch in Time* (Jan Darnley-Smith, 1978) which stars Patrick Troughton.

In *The Monster of Highgate Ponds* young David promises to guard a mysterious egg which his uncle brings back from Malaysia. But, when a baby monster hatches, mayhem ensues as David struggles to keep the unruly, but friendly, creature from falling into the clutches of two ruthless crooks. This enchanting tale, shot on location on Hampstead Heath, features brilliant animated sequences by the legendary Halas & Batchelor, who also produced the film, and was directed by the celebrated Ealing director Alberto Cavalcanti (*Went the Day Well?*).

*The Boy Who Turned Yellow* is the splendidly eccentric final collaboration from eminent filmmaking duo Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger (*Black Narcissus*, *The Red Shoes*). London schoolboy John Saunders turns bright yellow after losing his pet mouse on a school trip. Is the mysterious colour change the result of an alien invasion or does the answer lie closer to home?

In *A Hitch in Time* Patrick Troughton (*Doctor Who*) plays time-hopping inventor Professor Adam Wagstaff. Discovered working on his time machine by two curious kids, Wagstaff decides to send them back through the ages. But, with malfunctions a-plenty, will they be able to make it back? Featuring Jeff Rawle (*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*) as 'Sniffy' Kemp, the teacher out to spoil everybody's fun, *A Hitch in Time* is a riotous re-telling of history.

For over 30 years the Children's Film Foundation produced quality entertainment for young audiences, employing the cream of British filmmaking talent. Newly transferred from the best available elements held in the BFI National Archive, these much-loved and fondly remembered films finally return to the screen after many years out of distribution in specially curated DVD releases from the BFI. The fourth volume of CFF films, *Bumps in the Night*, will be released in October 2013.

### Special features

- Brand new High Definition transfers of all films
- Illustrated booklet with writing by Michael Powell, Lem Kitaj (who played Munro in *The Boy Who Turned Yellow*), Vivien Halas and BFI curator Vic Pratt

### Product details

**RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIVD970 / Cert U**

UK / 1961 + 1972 + 1978 / black & white, and colour / English / 56 + 52 + 54 mins / DVD9 / Original aspect ratios 1.37:1 + 1.66:1 (16x9 anamorphic) / Dolby Digital mono audio (320 kbps)

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Images are available at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) under BFI DVD

BFI DVDs are available from all good DVD retailers or by mail order from the BFI Shop

Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at [www.bfi.org.uk/shop](http://www.bfi.org.uk/shop)

**About the origins of the Children's Film Foundation**

The CFF was a non-profit making pan-industry initiative, set up in 1951 by the owner of the Odeon and Rank cinema chains to make home-grown entertainment for young cinemagoers to see at the 'Saturday morning pictures'.

One of the Foundation's major contributions to the British film industry was encouraging directorial and acting talent. Michael Powell, Lewis Gilbert, Alberto Cavalcanti and John Krish all worked for it and famous film and TV names such as Francesca Annis, Michael Crawford, Susan George, Richard O'Sullivan, Dennis Waterman, Keith Chegwin, Gary Kemp, Leslie Ash, Phil Collins, Sadie Frost and Matthew Wright all started out in CFF films.

Key themes of the films include adventure, mysteries, monsters, science-fiction, ship wrecks, races and animals, with regional content from Scotland to South West England.

The CFF collection is now preserved in the BFI National Archive.

The CFF became the Children's Film and Television Foundation in 1982 and film production finally stopped in 1987. The Children's Film and Television Foundation is now known as The Children's Media Foundation.

**About the Children's Media Foundation**

The Children's Media Foundation is a not-for-profit, independent organisation which campaigns for, and supports, the production of a range of varied and quality media for children and young people in the UK. Successor to the Children's Film and Television Foundation and the Save Kids' TV campaign (established after the closure of ITV Children's Production Department in 2006), the CMF aims to improve our understanding of the media's cultural importance for children.

More information on the CMF can be found at [www.thechildrensmediafoundation.org](http://www.thechildrensmediafoundation.org)



**About the BFI**

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

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