



John J. Carey (left) receives the International Award for his film, *Success Story*, at the 1978 National Educational Film Festival, Oakland, California

Educational Film Festival in Oakland California, begins with the premise that, from an evolutionary standpoint, the insects are the most successful creatures on earth, and proceeds in six segments to show why this is so. Each of these deals with a different aspect of the life cycle and behaviour of the various species, and Carey chooses insects which best dramatize these aspects. Thus, butterflies are used to provide an example of metamorphosis, the ant lion is used to demonstrate a method of food gathering and the lacewing fly larva shows the skill with which these tiny creatures camouflage themselves. To Carey's knowledge, this is the first time that this particular phenomenon has been photographed. Among the social insects, honey bees (the subject of two of Carey's earlier films) are shown as having the most sophisticated means of caring for their young and of protecting themselves in the winter.

The proportion of time invested in making a film like *Success Story* far exceeds the actual length of the end result. Almost ten years of work went into this film's 27 minutes, for reasons that are not always evident. This type of photography, dependent as it is on circumstances that are often

uncontrollable, such as the close-up work with insects, requires above all a lot of patience. Carey does his own camera work. Except for some judicious time lapse sequences that graphically show the metamorphosis process, he does not use special visual effects. But much time was required to mix the natural sounds and the unobtrusive musical score that are used to good effect.

## BRING 'EM BACK ALIVE

d. John J. Carey ARPS, ph. John J. Carey, ed. Ralph C. Brunjes, sd. ed. Gerry Quinney, sd. rec. R.C. Carey, narr: Cy Strange, tech. consultant: Dr. Maurice V. Smith, p. John J. Carey, col. 16mm, 1978, running time 11 minutes.

*Bring 'Em Back Alive*, less overtly "educational" than *Success Story*, is aimed at a younger audience, and is designed as an introduction to insect collecting as both a school assignment and a hobby. Carey uses three youngsters to provide some audience identification, an important point to con-

sider when making a film for children. Using this framework, he shows that, while the collecting expeditions of an organization like the Royal Ontario Museum are sophisticated and expensive, students can start collecting with little or no money. He then follows the three collectors, as they prepare for their expedition, the expedition itself (with some useful asides on proper precautions to be taken in the woods), and the insects that they find. From here on, the material follows that of *Success Story* (life cycle and metamorphosis), but on a somewhat simpler level. Lastly, the youngsters release their fully developed insects. Carey attaches considerable importance to this last action, for he does not believe that insects should be mounted as trophies.

Both films are well narrated by Cy Strange, whose delivery neatly avoids verbosity or cuteness. Perhaps the only unfortunate metaphor is a reference to insects engaging in "chemical warfare." Carey and his technical advisor, Dr. Maurice Smith of the University of Guelph (an authority on honey bees), have also written a highly informative and practical teacher's guide for each film. It is to be hoped that Carey's interest in and respect for insect life will be conveyed to students by these films.

J. Paul Costabile

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