

# REVIEWS

## Christopher Chapman's Untitled 3-D film

Christopher Chapman's latest film, made for special presentation within a permanent exhibition, is an untitled, 15-minute nature study filmed in 3-D, the first time this individual and inventive filmmaker has used this technique.

In subject matter and treatment, it is a perfect little film—never pretending to be more than what it sets out to be: an opportunity for Chapman to use 3-D, to find his way with this much misused and difficult process, and to provide Science North, the new science centre in Sudbury, Ontario, with a special kind of film for regular showing over a period of several years.

A word here about the "auditorium" in which it is being shown. Although designed by Raymond Moriama (who was also the architect of the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto) Science North's is quite unlike the OFT's auditorium in the Science Centre. The Sudbury theatre is an enormous cavern, with natural rock forming the walls, ceiling and floors. The only modern intrusion in this million-year-old cave is the screen, which comes down from the blackness above, the sound system (which can-

not be seen) and just enough lighting to permit the audience to find its way to the rows of bench seating.

In this raw and natural, but by no means uncomfortable setting, the film Chapman has made is entirely in keeping with the 'hall', the subject matter in harmony with the setting and many of the exhibits on display at Science North.

What Christopher and Francis Chapman, together with Brian Holmes, have done is to let nature pass before our eyes in three dimensions. Shot in the Sudbury area and around Lake Superior and south Georgian Bay, there is little we haven't seen before in a hundred nature films, some of them even made by Christopher Chapman; but he makes trees, streams, and countryside, animals and birds, all seem fresh and new again, accompanied by a judicious use of sound effects and music, the whole giving us a fresh insight into what nature means. There is no commentary, nothing pretentious about the use of camera and editing, but an astonishingly fluid and image-sharp use of 3-D lenses. It is the perfection we have come to expect from Chapman in a work simple to look at but difficult to achieve.

In today's world, in which so much of nature is being destroyed along with the animals inhabiting it, the sight of birds seemingly flying in the auditorium and the unconcerned beaver and turtle swimming past the end of our noses is utterly delightful.

Nothing is thrown at us, familiar 3-D tricks are avoided, and the whole cannot help but give children, who love it all, and adult audiences a new appreciation of what we take so much for granted.

Filed in 70mm and projected on two synchronised reels, it is a technical marvel of photography and a credit to Science North, which might well have commissioned a vulgar piece of entertainment in the belief that this would be the easy way to draw audiences. Better care should be taken however, in re-using the polaroid glasses, and in instructing audiences to keep its fingers off the lenses. A program note with credits should also be provided. This still un-titled film cost \$600,000 and took a year to make. It compares more than favourably with Disney's \$7 million, special effects 3-D short subject now showing at Epcott Centre.

Gerald Pratley ●

**d./ed./d.o.p.** Christopher Chapman; **p.** Francis Chapman; **p. coord.** Penny Grey; **tech. coord.** Brian Holmes; **stereo cam. asst.** Ken Post; **3-D eff.** Francis Chapman and Brian Holmes; **sd. ed.** David Troster; **loc. assist.** Barbara Glen-Chapman; **grip** David Hynes; **nature cons.** William Garrick; **Fairlight sd. component** Greg Holmes; **gen'l. asst.** Victor Noble; **re-rec.** Mike Hoogenboom and Tony Van Den Akker; **cam.** Panavision (Los Angeles); **lab.** MGM (Los Angeles); **sd. studios:** The Film House Group (Toronto) & Magder Studios (Toronto); **special thanks to:** Henry Jahn, Ernie McNabb, the NFB and the Ontario Science Centre. **Running Time:** 15 mins.

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Bayo Film Productions



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