

## *Le roi et l'oiseau* DVD

By Jan Uhde

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Finally, Paul Grimault's beautiful, poetic and humorous tale about oppression and the struggle for freedom - the *chef d'œuvre* of French animation which also influenced Miyazaki - can now be enjoyed by more than a lucky few. Meticulously restored after a two-year effort, the image and colour quality of the transfer is pure pleasure to behold. On top of this, Jacques Prévert's poetic text and the lyrical score by Joseph Kosma (songs) and Wojciech Kilar (music) are simply unforgettable. The film's story, based on Hans Christian Andersen's fairy-tale *The Shepherdess and the Chimney-Sweep* is simple, so that perhaps the (unfortunately unavailable) English subtitles will not really be missed. The set includes a 56-minute documentary on Grimault and his 1988 feature *La table tournante* (co-dir. Jacques Demy; both in French).

These two definitive editions are a real treat for the viewer and serve as a new benchmark for other DVD creators.



Figure 1: *LE ROI ET L'OISEAU* DVD ◻ Animated ◻ Dir. Paul Grimault, France 1979 ◻ PAL, Reg. 2, in French only ◻ 2-disc Collector's ed. (EUR 27.39) ◻ Prestige ed. Boxed and numbered, plus a CD with partial soundtrack, colour booklet and five colour prints (EUR 42.16)

### Author Information

Jan UHDE is Professor Emer. (Film Studies) at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Born in Brno, Czech Republic. Graduated (MA) from the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Brno; PhD received at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. He taught at the University of Waterloo (1970-2012) where he founded a General and Honours BA program in Film Studies at the Department of Fine Arts.

Publications: *Latent Images: Film in Singapore* Second edition, with Yvonne Ng Uhde (Ridge Books, National University Press of Singapore, 2010); *Latent Images: Film in Singapore*, with Yvonne Ng Uhde (Oxford University Press, 2000); *Latent Images: Film in Singapore CD-ROM* (2003, co-author); *Vision and Persistence: Twenty Years of the Ontario Film Institute* (University of Waterloo Press, 1990) and *Ontario Film Institute Programming Activities Index 1969-1989* (Toronto: Ontario Science Centre, 1990). He co-edited the *Place in Space: Human Culture in Landscape* (Proceedings from the Second International Conference of

the Working Group "Culture and Landscape" of the International Association of Landscape Ecology, Pudoc Scientific Publishers, Wageningen, Holland, 1993). Jan Uhde has published articles and reviews in several countries (including Canada, USA, Germany, Italy), participated in international juries at film festivals and presented papers at international conferences in North America and Europe. In 1998/99, he was a visiting researcher at the School for Film and Media Studies, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore.

His professional and research interests focus on Singapore cinema; the identification and distancing mechanisms of the film viewer; the non-authored modifications and manipulation of films; and specific aspects of film history, including the Central European cinema.

He founded KINEMA in 1993.