

# OPERATION CUCKOO

C 9102 075

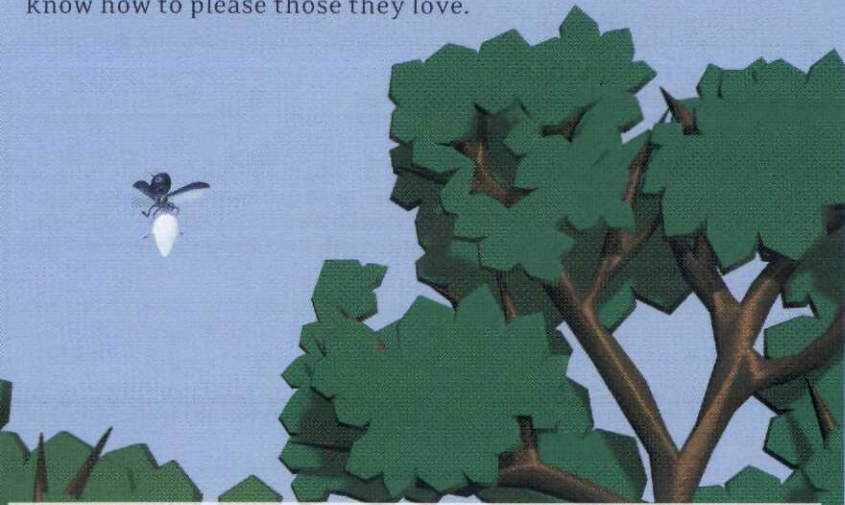
A film by  
PIERRE M. TRUDEAU

# OPERATION CUCKOO

FRIENDSHIP CAN LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE!

Mr. Edgar is a mechanical cuckoo who putters happily around his cuckoo clock, keeping it in tip-top shape while waiting for his adopted fledglings to return in the spring.

The joyous reunion is followed by a terrible catastrophe: one of the clock's gears has fallen off! Without it, there's no tick-tock... and no cuckoo! Mr. Edgar has to get it back. An impossible task is made possible with the help of his new friend Fifi, a brave and resourceful firefly. She risks her life to help Mr. Edgar and he, in turn, saves her from a sticky situation. He then gives her a lovely surprise. Good friends know how to please those they love.



# OPERATION CUCKOO



Direction, Script & Animation: Pierre M. Trudeau • Voice: A.J. Henderson • Producer: Jean-Jacques Leduc  
• A National Film Board of Canada Production.

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VHS  
C 9102 075

13 MIN

Closed captioned.  
A decoder is required.

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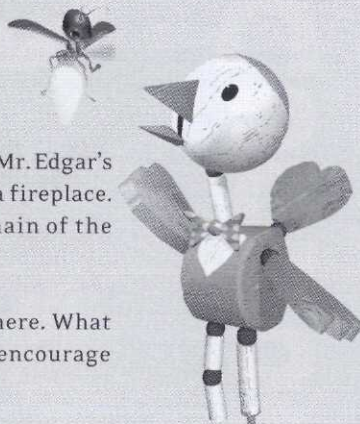


# OPERATION Cuckoo

FRIENDSHIP CAN LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE!

AUDIENCE  
5- to 8- year-olds

LENGTH: 13 MIN



## Discussion Questions

Before talking about the story, have a brief discussion about Mr. Edgar's home. Point out that the clock is hanging on the chimney of a fireplace. The fireplace, a stone floor and a basement are all that remain of the house.

Ask what may have happened to the family who once lived there. What about the house? Allow the children to speculate freely, and encourage imaginative responses.

*Operation Cuckoo* includes lots of magical details and events. Although Mr. Edgar reports that "Fifi the firefly had a sort of clock that put pictures into motion," the old 8mm film projector we see is based on an actual machine. Explain to the children that such machines were used for showing movies in schools and homes not so long ago. The use of Fifi's light to illuminate the frames of the film and thus project them through the lens is a simple way of showing how these old projectors worked. Of course, there was no electricity to drive the projector, only Fifi's ability to put pictures in motion, in short, magic meets machines.

Ask the children for other examples of magic from the film. (Mr. Edgar converting his clock into a movie projector, Fifi being swallowed by the frog but not actually eaten, the "real" birds being raised by a wooden cuckoo-clock bird, Mr. Edgar drinking lubricating oil and eating a bowl of metal nuts, etc.)

Encourage the children to discuss their examples and to tell what they liked about that particular flight of fancy. There are no wrong answers.

This is an excellent opportunity to talk about friendship, including the unusual one between Mr. Edgar and Fifi the firefly. Ask the children how this friendship developed, e.g., Fifi helps Mr. Edgar escape from the basement; Mr. Edgar rescues Fifi from the bullfrog; Mr. Edgar finds a way to show movies from his clock that Fifi and all the other creatures can enjoy.

Ask the children to talk about their own friends. Encourage them to tell how they met and how the friendship grew. Are all their friends like them, or do they have friends who are of different ages... with different personalities? Discuss the benefits and responsibilities of friendship.

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### Cuckoo, Mr. Edgar

(AGES 5 TO 8)

13 MIN

C 9199 071

In the first episode of Mr. Edgar's adventure, he lives alone until one night three eggs land in his living room and hatch. The little cuckoo bird experiences instant fatherhood. His little wards take up all his time! But eventually they also take over his heart!

### Snow Cat

(AGES 5 TO 10)

23 MIN

C 9198 081

In this animated tale, a little boy listens, fascinated, to his grandmother's story about a solitary little girl and her magic cat. Full of wisdom and sensitivity, this heartfelt story is perfect for a child's sensibility.

### Your Country, My Country

(AGES 5 TO 12)

7 MIN

C 9192 064

A touching story of two 10-year-olds who look at life in different ways! Despite their differences, a friendship begins when they decide to work together on a school project.

### The Boy and the Snow Goose

(AGES 5 TO 12)

11 MIN

C 0084 034

A young boy finds an injured snow goose and nurses it back to health. The two sadly separate in autumn when the bird obeys the call to join its flock for the annual flight south. An enchanting animation film without words on the profound friendship between a child and a wild goose.

