



National
Film Board
of Canada

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Based on a poem by Peter Desbarats
Produced by National Film Board of Canada

Lucretia

Lucretia is an animation film sprinkled with magic and stardust. A scintillating fantasy for children and the young at heart, it will cast a spell in any season. It is, as well, a sassy tale that defies classification. With a twinkling eye, *Lucretia* turns common assumptions topsy-turvy.

The film's central character, Lucretia, is not quite your everyday heroine! Bright, impish, and assertive, she is a "perfect angel" in her homeland, where "beautiful" and "good" are frowned upon. For the more typical beings of Hades, "Christmas" is a word that's spoken in hushed tones. All passage out of Hades is barred at Christmas time.

Such mystery piques Lucretia's curiosity. One Christmas Eve she uses her magical powers and mental wiles to pass through the forbidden gate. Seeking Christmas throughout the galaxies, she finds the planet Earth and an old man's snowy yard. The combined knowledge, yearning and powers of Lucretia and the old man produce a Christmas celebration that delights every viewer's heart.

The film's skillful animation dazzles and beguiles. The reading of Peter Desbarats's poem "Lucretia," upon which the film is based, intensifies the enchantment. Lucretia's gentle irreverence stimulates reflection in all ages, in all seasons.

Audiences

Elementary School — Grades 3-6

High School — English; Women's Studies; Values/Ethics Education; Family Studies; Contemporary Studies;

Post-Secondary — Women's Studies; Film Studies

Themes

Stereotypes; conceptions of the feminine; ways of knowing; different perceptions; poem into film form; animation techniques.

Note: Teachers of English, film studies, and elementary school students may wish to obtain the book *The Night the City Sang* (Peter Desbarats, Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1977) and have their students study the poem "Lucretia" before showing the film.

Activities for Elementary School Children

Pre-Screening Discussion:

Tell the children they will be seeing a magical film whose "hero" is a girl. It is about Christmas and some worlds that are very different from ours.

- What does Christmas mean to you?
- Have you ever met someone who didn't know what Christmas was?
- Have you ever had a Christmas that was somehow very different?

Post-Screening Discussion:

- What was your favorite part of the film? Why?
- Do you like Lucretia? Why or why not?
- Why is Christmas never talked about in Hades?
- How does Lucretia handle the fact that everyone in her world thinks badly of her?
- Have you ever felt different?
- What aspects of Lucretia's personality remind you of yourself?
- What aspects are different?
- Is Lucretia the same or different from most other heroines?

Activities:

- Draw or paint your favorite character or scene.
- Write your own story about a girl or boy who has a magical Christmas.
- Write about the kind of world you would like to live in.
- Write a poem or story about what Christmas means to you.

Designed, directed and animated by
Heidi Blomkvist

Poem written by
Peter Desbarats

Read by
Damir Andrei

Music
Normand Roger

Camera
Pierre Landry
Robin L.P. Bain
Ray Dumas

Sound Editing
Normand Roger

Re-recording
Jean-Pierre Joutel
Adrian Croll

Producer
Eunice Macaulay

Executive Producer
Douglas MacDonald

Produced and distributed by the
National Film Board of Canada

color

Screening time:

9 minutes 37 seconds

16 mm: 106C 0186 023

35 mm: 105C 0186 023

3/4": 116C 0186 023

VHS: 113C 0186 023

Beta: 114C 0186 023



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