

T O B E



T O B E

Entertaining. Funny. And provocative. Through a rich blend of fantasy and reality, this animation film offers a bold perspective on an as yet unresolved problem, the nature of personal identity.

The story unfolds around a feisty young heroine struggling with one of life's mysteries — what does it mean, to be? — and an eminent scientist who has just invented a mind-boggling mode of transportation. Using this new technology, a copy is made of the human traveler, and then, the original is destroyed...

Oscar-winning animator John F. Weldon used paper and colored pencils to create this intriguing concoction that will entrance viewers with its spellbinding story and witty details. The film also provokes serious reflection on human identity, and on moral issues of our times.

(See reverse for more information.)

Director: John F. Weldon

Producer: David Verrall

10 minutes 5 seconds
Order number: C 0190 007



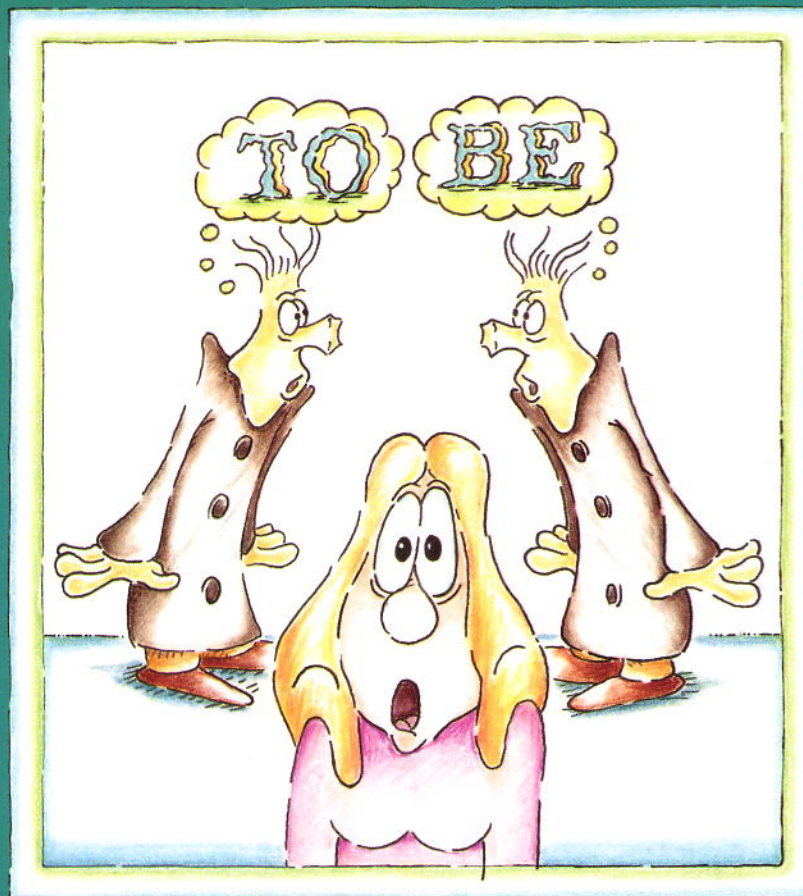
National
Film Board
of Canada

Office
national du film
du Canada

VHS

113C
0190 007

From the National Film Board of Canada



T O B E

A FILM BY JOHN F. WELDON

A provocative look at the nature of personal identity.



National
Film Board
of Canada

Office
national du film
du Canada

T O B E

Through a richly textured, fast-paced story, this spirited animation film tackles an age-old problem — the nature of personal identity.

The story unfolds around a feisty young heroine struggling with one of life's mysteries — what does it mean, to be? — and an eminent scientist who has just invented a mind-boggling mode of transportation. Using this new technology, a copy is made of the human traveler, and then, the original is destroyed.

The young woman is astounded, outraged, and tantalized. She is also determined not to be duped. Surely there's a trick involved! Is the technique moral? What of its safety?

Finally, she presents the scientist with one challenge too many. The startling results are for viewers to discover!

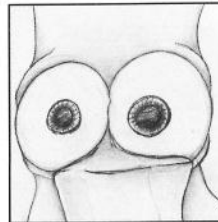
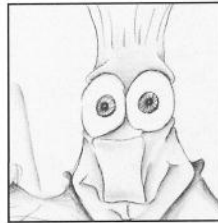
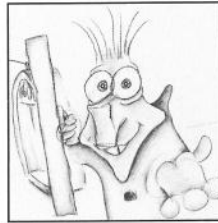
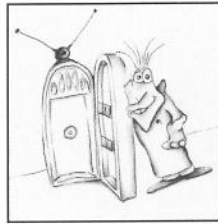
Filmmaker John F. Weldon used paper and colored pencils to create this intriguing concoction, and also wrote the catchy banjo tune that punctuates the story's changing moods. *To Be* will entrance viewers with its spellbinding story and witty details. The film also provokes serious reflection on human identity, and on moral issues of our times.

A U D I E N C E S

General Audiences; Education: Senior Secondary level through University (Language Arts, Literature, Values Education, Ethics, Science, Psychology, Philosophy, Religion).

Q U E S T I O N S F O R D I S C U S S I O N

1. Trace the moral decisions the heroine makes in the film. Discuss some of the techniques that the filmmaker uses to provoke reflection on the morality of behavior and situations.
2. Discuss different ways you can appear and behave in your daily life. Does this mean you are really different people?
3. You discover that you were one of two identical twins. The other one did not survive. Are you lucky to be the survivor, or does it matter? If the other one had survived, would that person have been you?
4. Discuss the following themes: the nature of personal identity; moral questions surrounding organ transplants, euthanasia, suicide, abortion, cloning, genetic manipulation, and artificial intelligence; the scientist's responsibility for his or her scientific breakthroughs; personal, societal, and technocratic responsibility for the use of new ideas in technology.



ABOUT THE ANIMATOR

John F. Weldon was born in Belleville, Ontario in 1945. He won prizes for his math skills in high school, and attended McGill University in Montreal, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Mathematics.

Since joining the National Film Board of Canada, Weldon has collaborated on over thirty films and has animated and directed eight of his own. Weldon's unorthodox sense of humor and innovative approach to animation make his work unforgettable. *Spinnolio* (1977) follows the career of a wooden puppet who makes a passive but quite successful attempt at "life" until he is traded in for a computer. Weldon's Academy Award-winning short *Special Delivery* (1979), is a black comedy about adultery, death and the Post Office. *Real Inside* (1984), a film combining live action and animation, is a rollicking tale about a cartoon character's attempt to climb the corporate ladder. More recently, Weldon has directed his talents towards creating entertaining educational films. *Of Dice and Men* (1988) is a computer-animated film that guides students through the mathematical theory of probability.

Written, Directed and Animated by

JOHN WELDON

Voices

**KIM HANDYSIDES
HOWARD RYSPAN**

Color Design and Rendering

JOAN CHURCHILL

Additional Color Rendering

**COLETTE BRIÈRE
JANICE STEWART**

Animation Camera

**JACQUES AVOINE
ROBIN L.P. BAIN
PIERRE LANDRY**

Music Composed by

JOHN F. WELDON

Performed by

KATE McGARRIGLE

Sung by

KIM HANDYSIDES

Sound Editing

JACQUELINE NEWELL

Foley Artist

LISE WEDLOCK

Foley Recording

LOUIS HONE

Re-recording

**JEAN-PIERRE JOUTEL
SHELLEY CRAIG**

Special Thanks to

**HEIDI BLOMKVIST
WENDY TILBY**

Studio Administrator

CARROL SMITH

Producer

DAVID VERRALL

Executive Producer

DOUGLAS MACDONALD

**Produced and distributed by
the National Film Board of Canada**

Color

Screening time: 10 minutes 5 seconds

Order number: C 0190 007

Film or videocassette

The material on this videocassette is protected under the Copyright Act of Canada. This copy is licensed for non-commercial use only. Any other application, including, but not limited to, broadcast, cablecast, resale, rental copying or other form of reproduction or exhibition, in whole or in part, is expressly prohibited unless authorized in writing by the National Film Board of Canada or its appointed agent. Violation of this license is an infringement of copyright and may result in civil liability or criminal prosecution.

© National Film Board of Canada, 1990, P.O. Box 6100, Station A, Montreal, Quebec H3C 3H5
Printed in Canada