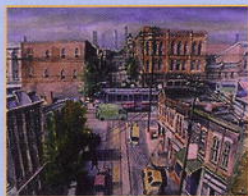
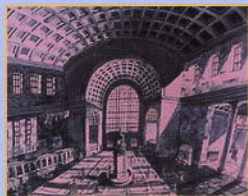


... and wheeeee the train goes round the corner
 wheee the corner goes round the train
 goes BANGLE the trains not round the train has angles
 whangles every coach is angled different
 angle bangle wrangle seats are jangled sideways dangled
 bags jerked bags of the jerks fall in aisles whumph

Excerpted from Earle Birney's poem "trawna tuh belvul by knayjin
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Forget what you may have already
 learned about poetry in school
 and get ready for the ride of your
 life. Earle Birney's and Martin
 Rose's TRAWNA TUH BELVUL is a
 "WACKITY" and "KLANGITY
 KLANG" trip through poetry that
 celebrates a whimsical and playful
 vision of life reflected in its experi-
 mental verse. Through Birney's and
 Rose's eyes, the energy and vigour
 of this train journey from Toronto
 to Belleville turns this poem into a
 multifaceted diamond, always
 surprising us.



Although Birney has said that
 "Poetry's basically a mad affair; it's not
 logical at all," TRAWNA TUH BELVUL is the
 kind of madness and illogicality that makes
 us dance with joy in its recognition of
 what it's like being human, no matter
 what age, race, gender or nationality.

In his animation of Birney's poem,
 Martin Rose liberates both the written
 and the aural texts, capturing the words
 in the choreography of his animated
 characters performing to the poetry
 and the music.

Produced by the National Film Board of Canada, Pacific Centre

Distributed by the National Film Board of Canada

Direction/Animation: Martin Rose
 Producer: Svend-Erik Eriksen

14 minutes 28 seconds
 Order Number C 9194 076

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TRAWNA TUH BELVUL

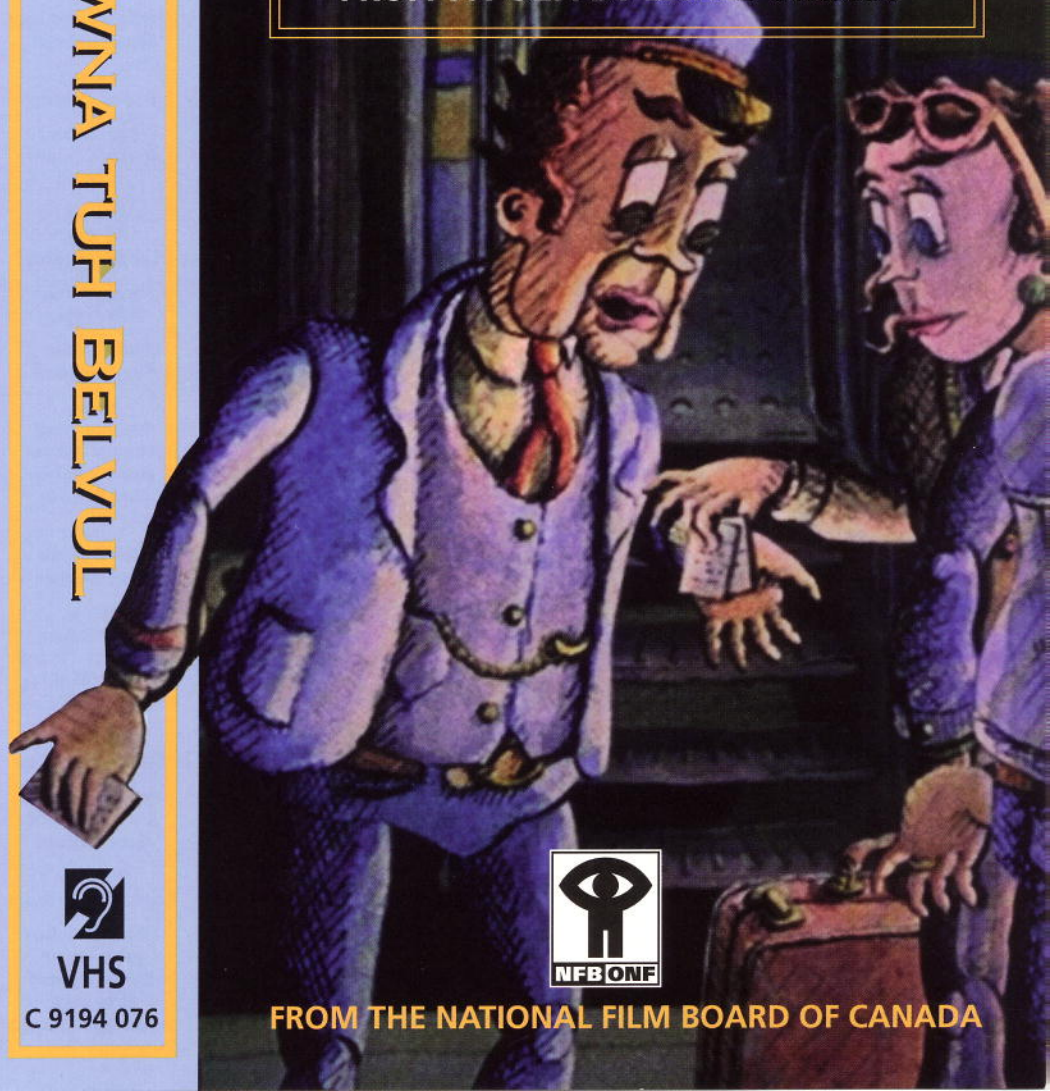


VHS

C 9194 076

TRAWNA TUH BELVUL

A FILM BY MARTIN ROSE
 FROM A POEM BY EARLE BIRNEY



FROM THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA

TRAWNA TUH BELVUL



Earle Birney (1904 -)

Earle Birney was born in Calgary, Alberta. After his father's service in World War I, his family moved to a fruit farm near Creston, B.C. In 1922 he enrolled in Chemistry at the University of British Columbia, becoming interested in English Literature in his second year as well as being the associate editor of the campus newspaper, *The Ubyyssey*. In 1925 he became editor-in-chief and graduated in Honours English in 1926. From the University of Toronto he received an M.A. in 1927 and a Ph.D. in 1938.

At UBC he taught Medieval Literature from 1948 to 1965; while there, he also established Canada's first department of Creative Writing. His friend, Al Purdy, has said of him, "He went out of his way to help younger writers...Earle has always been a man with passionate feelings for his own country, and at the same time his is a world view that encompasses all creation."

His awards include a Governor General's Award for his first collection of poetry, *David and Other Poems* (1942), and for his *Now Is the Time* (1945) as well as the Stephen Leacock medal for humour for his novel *Turvey* (1949). His other books include *Trial of a City* (1952), *The Poems of Earle Birney* (1969), *Collected Poems* (1975), *Fall by Fury* (1978), in which "TRAWNA TUH BELVUL" appears, and his last collection of poetry, *Last Makings* (1991).

Martin Rose (1963 -)

Martin Rose graduated from Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design with a major in animation. It is here that Rose met his mentor, Hugh Foulds, an instructor who was "very passionate, a wonderful inspiration, and who himself was inspired by Norman McLaren."

"I instantly became very excited about it, with the non-linear thought and the barrage to the senses," was Rose's first reaction on reading *TRAWNA TUH BELVUL*. He decided to animate it by using a cut-out technique which involves using two-dimensional pup-



pets that are manipulated under the camera and then shot frame by frame. The final product took well over 10,000 photographs.

TRAWNA TUH BELVUL is Martin Rose's first animation for the NFB.

VHS
I13C 9194 076
14 min. 28 sec.

Written & performed by
Earle Birney

Direction, Design & Animation
Martin Rose

Picture Editor & Sound Design
Gael MacLean

Composer
Tracey Classen

Design Assistants
Amanda Forbis
Jill Haras

Rendering Assistants
Lisa Doyle
Candice Collins

Research Assistant
Deb Jansen

Sound Recording
Peg Campbell

Musicians
Suzanne Wall
Johanna Hauser
Peter Berring
Toni Stanick

Re-recording
Alex Downie
Brad Belcher

Thanks to:
Cavel Wilson
Jean-Pierre Joutel
Donald Winkler
Donald McWilliams

Studio Administrator
Bruce Hagerman

Production Co-ordinators
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NFB Producer
Svend-Erik Eriksen

NFB Executive Producers
John Taylor
Barbara Jones
Don Haig
Svend-Erik Eriksen

Questions and Activities

1. Animation can liberate the imagination. How does Martin Rose liberate Earle Birney's poem?
2. Which characters and places are the most memorable? Why?
3. After listening to only the soundtrack of *TRAWNA*, generate a detailed list of visuals. Then, run the animation and explore how Rose's interpretation differs from yours.
4. bp nichol has said of Birney's poetry, "...'experimental' poetry concerns itself with a return to the simpler elements of language. For Birney this has meant a return to the ear, and a search for some way to orchestrate for it...he wants to show the rise and fall of the human voice so he lets the line rise and fall." How are nichol's comments reflected in *TRAWNA*?
5. How are the following two quotes by Birney reflected in Rose's animation?
 - (a) "Today there's been going on a great affirmation of poetry as something inescapably auditory as well as visual, a creation successful only when it conveys its maker's unique inner voice, a thing to be spoken or chanted or sung, as in the beginnngs, with craft and with care, and yet still a poem in space, working on the eye."
 - (b) "The poet is really a dealer in magic, in incantation; he hums and fumbles for rhythms and cadences in an uncharted world of sound, knowing only that he may by luck or the visitation of some Genie, hit upon a series of breathings that will raise words from mere noise to the incredible power of a spell."

Related NFB Videos

1. Earle Birney: Portrait of a Poet (53:09). An intimate profile.
2. Aloud/Bagatelle (6:17). Earle Birney has fun with his love of trains in performing his poem, "To Swindon from London by Britrail."
3. Animando (12:42). Various animation techniques are explored through observations of the animator at work.

