

ARKELOPE

Almost for ever and ever, the Arkelope, mythical Everybeast, roamed the earth in natural harmony until, at last, the beastliest creatures of all threatened its existence. For sport, fashion, food and financial gain, they tracked the Arkelope until now it teeters on the brink of extinction!


A caustically humorous take on televised nature documentaries, **Arkelope** is an animation short that challenges us to face up to our careless treatment of the other species on the planet — before we ourselves meet a similar fate.

Director:
ROSLYN SCHWARTZ
Producers:
MARCY PAGE

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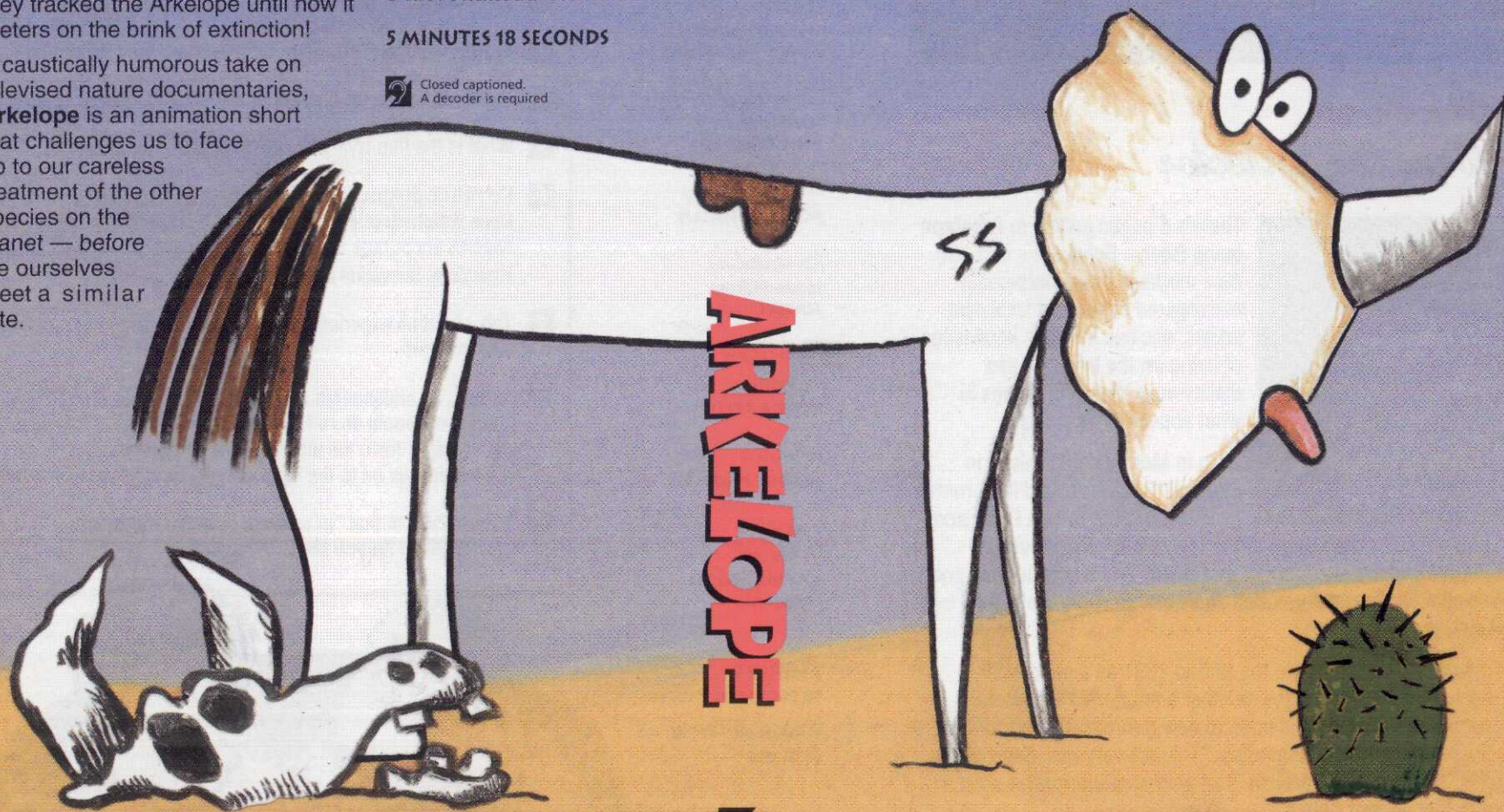
5 MINUTES 18 SECONDS

 Closed captioned.
A decoder is required



FROM THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA

ARKELOPE



ARKELOPE



VHS

9194 051



A SERIOUSLY FUNNY ANIMATED
LOOK AT ENDANGERED SPECIES AND
HUMAN PASSIVITY IN THE FACE OF
THE UBIQUITOUS TV SET.

FOR SALES INFORMATION CALL 1-800-267-7710

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WHILE SEARCHING FOR A DIVERSION ON TELEVISION ONE EVENING, A MIDDLE-AGED COUPLE LIGHTS UPON A NATURE DOCUMENTARY RECOUNTING THE DECLINE OF THE ARKELOPE. THOUGH IT HAS MANAGED TO SURVIVE A VARIETY OF NATURAL DISASTERS AND CALAMITIES, THE ARKELOPE HAS BEEN REDUCED, THROUGH HUMAN INDIFFERENCE AND SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS, TO A SPECIES WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE IS IN IMMINENT DANGER.

About the Director



There's a poetic justice to **Arkelope** being Roslyn Schwartz's first film. As a member of the perpetually endangered species of freelance artists, she has intimate knowledge of living on the brink — and discovering the silver linings in what appear to be clouds.

Born in Montreal and raised in England, Roslyn arrived in Toronto in 1976 en route to San Francisco.

She got sidetracked there for ten years until she moved to Montreal, where she worked as a textile and wallpaper designer. She also wrote and illustrated *Rose and Dorothy*, published by Kids Can Press.

That book brought her to the NFB in 1991 as a cel painter. She found working alongside other animators a wonderful experience. "The NFB is open to new filmmakers, and to the idea of taking risks," she notes. "That's a very rare thing, these days." Her next solo project is an animated interpretation of a song by Leonard Cohen.

TECHNIQUE:
TRADITIONAL CEL ANIMATION, GREASE PENCIL AND PASTEL.

*Direction,
Animation,
Concept and
Design*
**ROSLYN
SCHWARTZ**

Narration
HARRY HILL

Voices
**SHEENA LARKIN
MARK TRAFFORD**

Soundtrack
**JOHN OSWALD
PHIL STRONG**

Voice Recording
MICHEL CHALUT

Re-recording
**JEAN-PIERRE
JOUTEL**

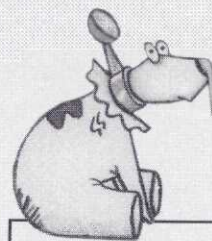
*Animation
Camera*
LYNDA PELLEY

Producer
MARCY PAGE

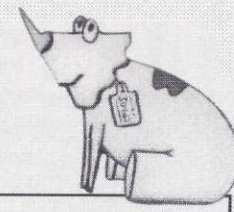
*Executive
Producer*
**BARRIE ANGUS
MCLEAN**

**5 MINUTES
18 SECONDS**

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Discussion Questions



- 1 How does it affect your life when a species becomes extinct?
- 2 What are some reasons for conserving wild animals?
- 3 Are zoos a useful way to protect animals from extinction?
- 4 What ways can you think of to protect endangered species?
- 5 What is the film trying to say to us? Do you agree/disagree?
- 6 Do nature programmes help to save endangered species? Does watching television programmes about vanishing species encourage us to passively accept the animals' fate? How does television affect how we view nature?
- 7 Talk about an experience you and your family have had with wild animals.
- 8 Is there an endangered animal or plant in your area? What can people do to help save this species? If this species disappeared from the environment, what would the consequences be to the local ecology, and to you personally?
- 9 Thoreau wrote that "In wilderness is the preservation of the world." What do you think he meant?

