



The Street

1976 10m12sec *director and animator* Caroline Leaf, *story* Mordecai Richler, *producer* Guy Glover

Never mind all the awards showered upon Caroline Leaf's *The Street*; it is important because it is one of the first Canadian animation films—inspired by a collection of stories by Mordecai Richler—to tell a distinctly Canadian story. Leaf's unique paint-on-glass technique enriches Richler's tale about a family's reactions to the passing of a grandmother by creating dreamlike and transitory images that breathe in and out of one another; barely giving us (or the characters) time—as with our own lives—to fully comprehend the magnitude of what is passing before us. In creating this sensitive, unique and very Canadian film, Leaf also shows us that animation, when it wants to be, can be a powerful and poignant dramatic tool, a medium capable of uncovering the deepest recesses of the human soul.

AWARDS: Canadian Film Awards – Animated Short, Wendy Michener Award; Academy Award Nomination – Animated Short; AV Trust – Masterwork

Chris Robinson

1948 11m *producer and director* Budge Crawley, *script* Douglas Leechman, *cinematographer* Grant Crabtree, *editor* Judith Crawley

Right from the opening frame, one senses that there is something unique about this film. Actors appear wearing West Coast First Nations ceremonial masks set against abstract woodland scenes, with bird calls and natural sounds heard in the background. The composite story tells of Kelora, whose sight is restored and as a reward the loon acquires its distinctive necklace. *The Loon's Necklace* launched Crawley Films on a successful 40-year independent path, which would lead to many Canadian and international awards. The film grew out of the 1940s *Canadian Artists* series made by Crawley Films in conjunction with the NFB. Judith Crawley's idea of using the First Nations ceremonial masks to illustrate the legend was inspired, and entirely in keeping with the original purpose of the masks. It is this respectful approach to First Nations culture that distinguishes *The Loon's Necklace* and makes it an important contribution to the Canadian film canon.

AWARDS: Canadian Film Awards – Film of the Year; AV Trust – Masterwork

James Forrester

The Loon's Necklace

