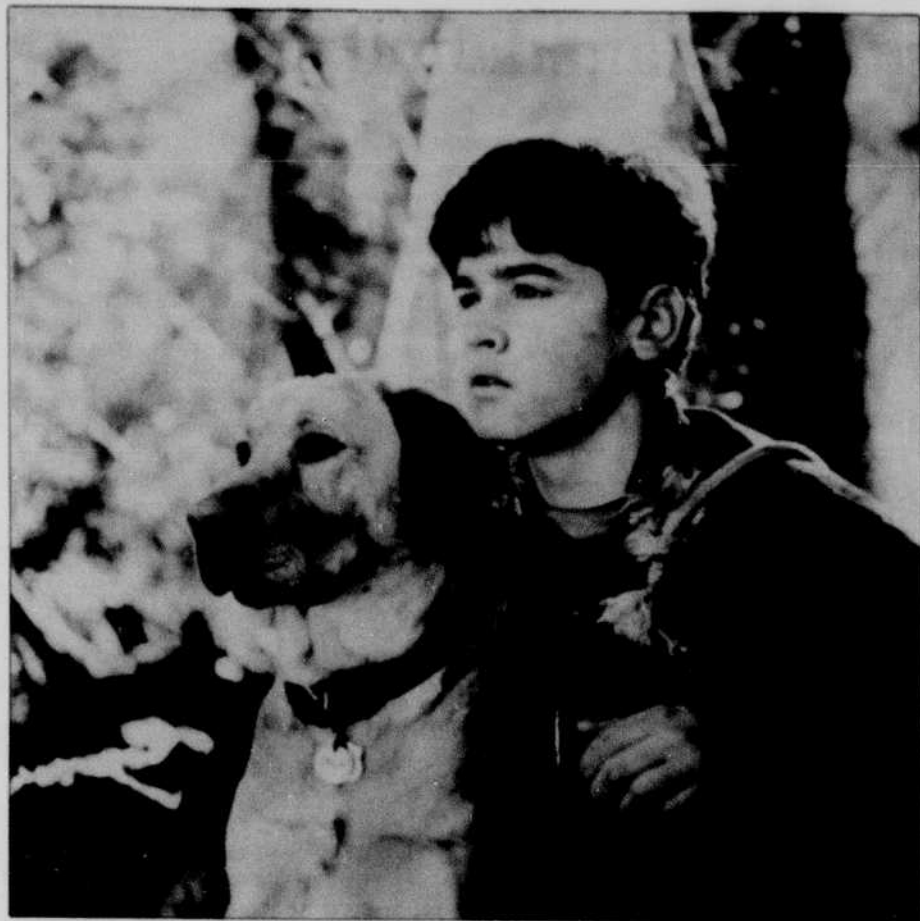


CINEMA



Jesse Bradford is Angus McCormick in *The Adventures of Yellow Dog*.

COURTESY PHOTO

This 'Dog' doesn't bite

Anne Moser-Kornfeld
Oregon Daily Emerald

Golden labrador lovers unite! *Far From Home, The Adventures of Yellow Dog* (rated PG) tells the story of a boy and his dog. Yellow Dog is a 3-year-old labrador named Dakotah who loves Snausages (dog snacks) and occasionally enjoys a Big Mac.

Far From Home: The Adventures of Yellow Dog

Jesse Bradford, Bruce Davison,
Mimi Rogers
Rated PG

★★

the dog shows signs of being troublesome after destroying bed sheets.

Yellow Dog shows Angus's mother Katherine, played by Mimi Rogers, his good side and wins the affection of the entire family. From then on out, Yellow Dog makes a lifelong friend with Angus and even accompanies him on a boating trip with his father. Bruce Davison plays the father, John McCormick.

The partnership established between Angus and Yellow Dog allows them to survive in the great outdoors and frames most of the film.

The scenic shots of the Pacific Northwest, spectacular forests and the provincial parks of British Columbia create a sense of how immense the rescue effort is to find Angus and Yellow Dog.

Far From Home is a safe, non-offensive film. The running time, less than 90 minutes, makes for a disappointing show. The conventional storyline and the lack of innovation on the part of writer-director, Phillip Boros, leaves the impression that seeing the trailer was enough.

An earlier animal movie, *Homeward Bound*, based on the true story of a Siamese and two dogs

making a cross-country trek held more adventure than *Yellow Dog*.

The family scenes, however touching, don't help build much into the characters. The younger son, Silas, played by Joel Palmer, has a love for adventure heroes, but his character is never fully developed. The same can be said for the parents. Davison and Rogers aren't given enough script to truly fill out their family life.

Audiences expect more. Audiences can easily be convinced that dogs are loyal and the best animal friend of humans. Yellow Dog doesn't even stand out as being a particularly unusual dog.

Yellow Dog does endure hardship, eats some awfully disgusting dinners in the wild and fends off wolves. Yellow Dog also gets lost in the shuffle when the film returns to its focus to the higher-paid human actors.

The middle-class, white family Yellow Dog adopts lives on Saturna Island. They're far away from the bustle of big-city life but are fully wired. John and Katherine McCormick run a shipping operation. And like many baby-boomer children-to-boot theme-based films, the question always comes up, where did the couple get enough to live so comfortably and out of the way of civilization?

Far From Home straddles between trying to please young children's love for animals and a parental realism over budget costs. Throughout the film, characters allude continually to dollar figures and material issues. The themes clash with one another and seem out of place.

The storyline never seems fully developed. I saw it because of the trailer. Stayed because I paid for it. Really disappointing. I wish I had the money; I'd make a better film. I love dogs, especially labs.

I'd like to say it was a great movie. I'd like to recommend the movie to parents, to people who don't like guns and to people who are looking for a nonviolent, mildly-entertaining flick. Go, if that's what you're looking for. Go, if every dog movie ever made captures your imagination. But if \$3 to \$6 can be better spent elsewhere, save it for another rainy day. Two paws down.

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