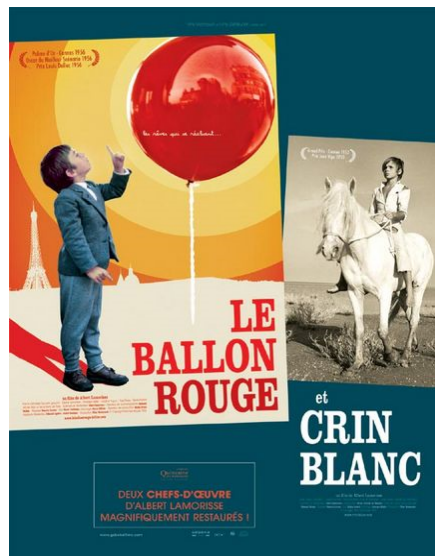


The Red Balloon (1956) /White Mane (1952)

Albert Lamorisse



Starring in both short films, Albert Lamorisse's son, Pascal Lamorisse, made possible the release of restored versions of his father's features half a century after their original release. The *Red Balloon* and *White Mane* have now enchanted several generations of children around the world. In 1957, James Agee adapted the dialogues of *White Mane* in English for American audiences who could recognize the narrating voice of Frank Silvera. Both films received multiple awards in France and abroad, including the Grand Prize for Best Short Film for *White Mane* in 1952 at the Cannes Film Festival. Four years later, in 1956, *Red Balloon* received the famous Cannes Palme D'Or in the same category, and was also awarded an Oscar for best screenplay.

White Mane is set in the wild and deserted marshlands of the Camargue, between the two arms of the Rhône river delta where it empties into the Mediterranean, a landscape that intensifies Lamorisse's black and white cinematography. There, *White Mane*, an untamable white stallion, and Folko, a young fisherman, will forge an unbreakable bond and pursue their freedom despite the harsh rules that men want to impose on them.

Set in the Paris of the fifties, *Red Balloon* focuses on the magical encounter of a young schoolboy and a red balloon. After being detached from a lamppost by the boy, the balloon follows his human friend through the streets of Paris. The two take us on a peculiar journey, blending social reality and imagination, as they run away from envious children and ambushes. In 2007, Chinese director Hou Hsiao-Hsien paid a wonderful tribute to Lamorisse's film and made his own *Flight of the Red Balloon*, starring Juliette Binoche. That same year, the Cannes Film Festival brought back Lamorisse's two children's features as a special homage programmed during the Quinzaine des Réalisateurs, a well-renowned side selection of the International Festival.

"If you missed it as a child, now is the time to make sure you seek it out and watch it." (Don Willmott, *Filmcritic.com*)

"A beautiful little meditation on childhood, on imagination literally taking flight." (Steven Rea, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*)

The Red Balloon/White Mane: Saturday 11/1 and Sunday 11/2 – 2 pm

Written by Audrey Evrard