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KALLE STROPP OCH GRODAN BOLL PA SVINDLANDE ÄVENTYR (THE ADVENTURES OF KALLE STROPP AND THE FROG BALL) (SWEDISH-ANIMATED)

A Sandrews presentation of a Cinemation production in cooperation with Sandrew Film & Teater, Filminstitutet & TV-3. Directed by Jan Gissberg. Screenplay, Thomas Funck. Music, Funck; design, Jan Gissberg; backgrounds, Peter Gissberg; animation, Jan Gissberg, Lars Emanuelsson, Flemming Jensden, Hans Hägerström, Jonas Dahlbeck, Jony Eriksson, Pernilla Hindsefelt; editor, Kerstin Hellgren. Reviewed at Filmstaden cinema, Stockholm, Jan. 14, 1992. (In Berlin Film Festival, children's pic section.) Running time: **84 MIN.**

Voices: Thomas Funck, Stig Grybe, Thorsten Flinck, Peter Dalle, Claes Månsson, Asa Bjerkerot, Eva Funck; Lasse Sarri, Inger Thunvall, Mikael B. Tretow, Yvonne Eliaesson, Jörgen Lantz, Jessica Laurén (songs).

T *VARIETY 2 24 92* his charming animated kidpic featuring the brain children of Thomas Funck should have a long, healthy commercial life, and exposure at the upcoming Berlin film fest could give it legs to travel abroad.

Cricket Kalle Stropp, his Frog

Ball pal and other characters started in the 1940s and have been adapted to books, plays, radio shows, comic strips, records and a feature in the '50s.

New pic has captured most of the stories' charm and humor, at the same time taking them into the modern world. After a slow start, the heroes attempt to rescue the forest from greedy exploiters. Kids will find the ensuing exploits suspenseful, while adults will be amused by the sometimes grownup humor.

Animation, slightly cruder than Disney, feels very European. The voices, most of them by Funck, add to the characters' distinctive personalities.

"Kalle Stropp" is no "Beauty and the Beast," but it's entertaining in its own right, and could do well internationally in a dubbed version—even if this means losing Funck's voices.

— *Gunnar Rehlin*