

Document Citation

Title	Beautiful people
Author(s)	Whitney Williams
Source	<i>Variety</i>
Date	1974 Nov 27
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Animals are beautiful people, Uys, Jamie, 1974

Beautiful People

Varity (COLOR) #27-74

Topflight African nature documentary, cinch to attract heavily in intended market.

Hollywood, Nov. 19.

Warner Bros. release, produced-written-directed-photographed-edited by Jamie Uys; narrator, Paddy O'Byrne. Reviewed at Burbank Studios, Nov. 19, '74. (MPAA Rating: G). Running time; 92 MINS.

"Beautiful People" is an extraordinary African nature documentary, one of the finest examples of its kind and told with a singleness of purpose which should attract mass attention in its particular market. Title refers to what its producer, South African Jamie Uys, calls the wild animals of Africa.

Feature literally is a one-man labor of love, as Uys in his multi-function of producer-writer-director-photographer-editor camera-paints an intimate and fascinating study of most of the known beasts of the Dark Continent and many unfamiliar to most audiences. His backgrounds are superb as he gives a kaleidoscope panorama of the African wilderness, the deserts and jungles of Southwest Africa in a region perhaps never before lensed for a motion picture.

Four years in the filming and repping a trek of what is reported to be up to 100,000 miles in such areas as the 50,000 square-mile Namib Desert, the vast Kalahari Desert and such other territories as the land of the Bushmen and the Hottentot, the 92-minute feature is a feat in photography as Uys close-ups most of the animals.

It is rich in human interest sequences as the producer catches little vignettes, such as a dozen or so different species getting drunk on decayed berries, a honeybadger being directed by a honeybird to a beehive, a baboon fainting at sight of a toothless snake, an impala teasing a lioness to chase it away from a water-hole, tumbling baboons doing flipflops.

Narration by Paddy O'Byrne is both witty and dramatic and musical background, often composed of familiar symphonic selections, catches the mood of the action. It is apparent through-out that Uys, known as one of the top producers in South Africa, has rare knowledge of his subject. He has been able to translate on film the lives and tragedies, the joys and funmaking, the problems and the fights for survival of his subjects in what amounts to a wild animal extravaganza. —Whit.