



Norman McLaren drawing on film,  
1944

# Norman McLaren

**Norman McLaren**, CC, CQ (11 April 1914 – 27 January 1987) was a Scottish-born Canadian animator and film director known for his work for the National Film Board of Canada (NFB). He was a pioneer in a number of areas of animation and filmmaking, including drawn on film animation, visual music, abstract film, pixilation and graphical sound.

His awards included an Oscar for the Best Documentary in 1952 for *Neighbours*, a Silver Bear for best short documentary at the 1956 Berlin International Film Festival *Rythmetic* and a 1969 BAFTA Award for Best Animated Film for *Pas de deux*.

[http://www.nfb.ca/film/neighbours\\_voisins](http://www.nfb.ca/film/neighbours_voisins)

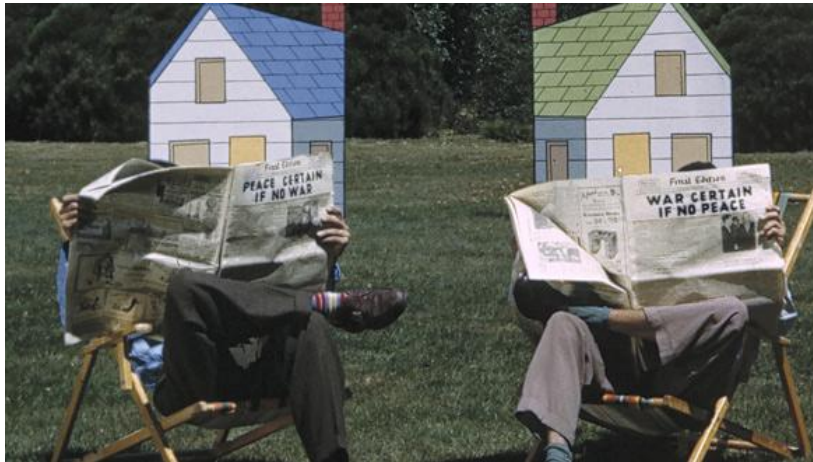
# Neighbors

Canadian theatrical distributors were not too impressed when they were shown *Neighbours* in 1952. Most thought it of poor technical quality as well as gruesome. Most American distributors agreed, yet the film was picked up and shown theatrically stateside, leading to a surprising Academy Award for Best Short Documentary. The Oscar® led to theatrical showings around the world. Interestingly, the film was censored by an American educational distributor, who felt that the scenes of the women and babies being attacked were too much to show to children. It wasn't until 15 years later that Norman McLaren would restore the film to its original version.

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<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1954>