

= Granpa =

Granpa is a British family @-@ oriented animated film that adapts a picture book by John Burningham . Produced by TVS for Channel 4 Television in 1989 , it was released on VHS by Universal Studios in 1994 .

An expensive film to produce , Granpa is hand @-@ illustrated with coloured pencil , imitating Burningham 's style in the book . It was directed by Dianne Jackson , who had previously adapted The Snowman by Raymond Briggs (1978) , a wordless picture book , as an exceptionally successful family @-@ oriented animated film (1982) . Howard Blake , who wrote the music for the The Snowman , wrote the music and the script for Granpa , which is referred to as an " animated children 's opera " . The voices of Granpa and Emily are by Peter Ustinov and Emily Osborne .

Granpa won the Prix Jeunesse International award for excellence in children 's television programming in 1990 .

= = Book = =

The animated film is an adaptation of the children 's picture book Granpa , written and illustrated by John Burningham and published by Jonathan Cape in 1984 . Burningham won the Kurt Maschler Award , or " the Emil " , from Maschler publishers and Booktrust , which annually recognised the author (s) of one " work of imagination for children , in which text and illustration are integrated so that each enhances and balances the other . "

= = Plot = =

The film opens with a photo album , showing Grandpa as a baby with his mother , him as a young boy , him as a young adult , dressed in WWII officers uniform beside a vintage car and his girlfriend , him being wedded with his wife , them having kids , them becoming an elderly couple , and finally with just grandpa with a baby Emily .

The entire theme for the film celebrates the relationship between a small girl named Emily (voiced by Emily Osborne) , and her kindly but ailing grandfather (voiced by Peter Ustinov) . Emily 's playful innocence is contrasted with Granpa 's increasing frailty . Aware that he will not be around for much longer , he shares his memories of adventures and days gone by .

These memories are vividly brought to life by her grandfather 's tales , beginning in the Spring a description of Granpa 's childhood and youth in the early part of the 20th Century , being part in a Noah 's Ark @-@ influenced story when it began to rain , remembering the days when Grandpa plaid the piano for the school 's choir , and enjoy ballroom dances with his wife .

In Summer , Grandpa and Emily traveled to the seaside to paddle in the sea , build sandcastles , and whilst riding on the donkeys , had Grandpa imagine himself part of the military tattoo , whilst Emily a princess . As they went to the amusement park and went to the stalls , they rode on the rollercoaster that then climaxed with them flying in a Spitfire , reenacting Granpa 's services during the Battle of Britain .

In Autumn , Granpa and Emily went fishing , and imagined of catching a whale that haled them through the Thames and through London . At bedtime , Granpa tells Emily the story of The Three Knights , of which was imagined on a bed covers . Though as he reads , he begins to slow up as he begins to drop off . So he end it with his own version , just as Emily was finally going to sleep .

In Winter , snow has settled , and once more Grandpa 's childhood began to show as he and his friends plaid in the snow . When back indoors , Grandpa was feeling very unwell , and was being looked after by Emily , who asked of him to read another story from a book , this time of them being in the Jungles of India riding on an Elephant , in which monkeys then steal Granpa 's storybook , of which they managed to recover , but was then left intentionally incomplete with Granpa saying , ' I 'm just not quite quick enough ... anymore.'

Throughout the seasons past , Granpa had began to grow frailer , and eventually Emily is left alone with an empty chair and the old man 's loyal dog . She leaves the house with the dog and climbs a

hill . As they travel , the ghost of his grandfather , now in his childhood again , joins them , along with the spirits of his childhood friends .

= = Production = =

In 1984 , following the success of the animated Christmas film *The Snowman* , Channel 4 commissioned another animation from TVC studios ; producer John Coates approached Dianne Jackson and composer Howard Blake , suggesting Burningham 's picture book *Granpa* . Blake was initially reluctant due to the book 's upsetting ending , but was convinced after witnessing his own daughter 's reaction to her grandfather 's death that year .

The film was entirely financed by Channel 4 and cost over one million pounds to make according to Coates . It was first broadcast on the channel on New Year 's Eve 1989 at 6.30pm.

= = Music = =

The musical score was written and composed by Howard Blake and is almost in the form of a miniature opera , with many of the tales within the animation sung by the lead characters , along with children from the Wroughton Middle School choir (winners of BBC Choir of the Year) and a forty @-@ piece orchestra (the Sinfonia of London) .

The end title song " *Make Believe* " is performed by Sarah Brightman and has the theme of " *Auld Lang Syne* " as a counter @-@ melody . The song was released as a single at the time .

= = Reception = =

The film won the Prix Jeunesse International award for excellence in children 's television programming in 1990 . The film review site Rotten Tomatoes has called the film " a sensitive and life @-@ affirming animated adaptation " .

Fiona Collins noted in *Turning the Page : Children 's Literature in Performance and the Media* that while Burningham 's book is open ended , with Emily ultimately left alone to contemplate her grandfather 's death , the film offers a less " stark " interpretation ; his death is explored through her implied remembrance of him in the final scene . Collins suggests that this was probably because the original offered an unremittingly bleak ending that would be difficult for its intended child audience .

The film has rarely been repeated , and has never been released on DVD , perhaps due to its subject matter . The " *Toonhound* " review suggest that the film takes the tone of the ending of *The Snowman* even further , " exploring an aspect of life rarely approached in animated form . " Paul Madden , writing Dianne Jackson 's obituary in 1993 suggests that the film " was less of immediate popular appeal than *The Snowman* , but was perhaps more satisfying to her creatively , demanding a more subtle approach . "