

THE NYC MOVIE GURU

This fascinating documentary follows four geologists as they spend their summer camping out on the icy landscape in Antarctica near McMurdo Research Station in order to explore for evidence that can provide clues as to what life in Antarctica was like millions of years ago. Two undergraduate students, Kelly Gorz and Andrew Podoll, along with their professors, Dr. Allan Ashworth and Dr. Adam R. Lewis, brave the brutally cold weather conditions that don't deter them from continuing in their explorations. As one of them explains, it's not an easy task to figure out the age of the samples that they find and to correctly determine the order in which they existed millions of years ago. Sample by sample, though, they piece together the evidence that suggests that the climate in Antarctica back then was actually warm enough to be filled with plant life which ceased to exist once the climate evolved. A simple fossil of a leaf that they find provides a lot of data for them that can be intensely studied later on. Director Anne Aghion wisely chooses not to have any voice-over narration and allows the breathtaking images of the Antarctic landscape to speak for itself along with the compelling footage of the geologists going about their daily experiences at work. The brief interviews with them provide a glimpse into what they're thinking and feeling without going off into distracting tangents about their lives and backgrounds. Not only do you get to observe them working outside, but also you get to see what they eat and what their living conditions are like inside their encampment. Their passion and curiosity for geology can be felt through their persistence and diligence day by day, especially how they seem so thrilled and enthusiastic to be working so far away from their family way back in America. In a way, all four of them have spent so much time together that they feel like family. Each day marks a new learning experience for the two undergraduate students which they could never have learned merely by attending lectures at the university or by reading textbooks. At a running time of 77 minutes, *Ice People* manages to be an intriguing, focused and often captivating documentary filled with stunningly beautiful cinematography of the Antarctic landscape.

Number of times I checked my watch: 1

Released by Milestone Films.

Opens at the Anthology Film Archives.

