

DRESSED TO IMPRESS
LA PLUS BELLE POUR ALLER DANSER
Original version: French/ English subtitles

Par la scénariste de LA FAMILLE BÉLIER



Director: Victoria Bedos
Release date (France): April 19, 2023
Genre : Dramedy
Countries of origin: France,
Belgium
Run Time: 92 min.

AGE APPROPRIATENESS

**THE FILM IS RECOMMENDED HERE FROM THE AGE OF 16.
LANGUAGE WITH SEXUAL CONNOTATIONS MAY BE OFFENSIVE.
THE MATURE SUBJECT MATTER IS AIMED AT TEENAGERS 16 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.**

SYNOPSIS

Marie-Luce Bison, 14 years old, is raised by her father (in a happy boarding house for seniors of which he is the director. It is soon the costume party of her new college: her father does not want her to go... and anyway, she is not invited. But pushed by Albert her 80-year-old best friend, Marie-Luce crashes the party, dressed as a man. That night, everyone takes her for a boy... a boy who is being watched and who PLEASES. She decides to invent a male double named Leo to finally live her teenage life. Of course, at home, the relationship with her father becomes complicated.

LES CRITIQUES

Marie-Luce, who studies Marivaux's *The Game of Love and Chance* in class, ends up dressing up as Leo to crash a party she wasn't invited to. This character of Léo, (...), changes the life of Marie-Luce who becomes more comfortable in Léo's skin. Her interpreter, **Brune Moulin**, is a real eye-catcher at times, especially in this scene after the party, where she dances in the street to the rhythm of *Don't leave me this way* by The Communards. In addition to this title, the **film** 's soundtrack is full of old French songs, including the one by Sylvie Vartan, which gave the film its title.

And, *La Plus Belle Pour Aller Danser*, an **intergenerational film**, which is not just a teen movie or a **film** with a bunch of old people, is a wise choice to evoke transidentity and to pass on a message of tolerance through a cute and touching feature film.

Sortir à Paris

... A smiling fable that casually examines themes such as solidarity between generations, homosexuality, bullying, mourning, adolescent malaise...

Rather than emotion, it is the merits and generosity that we will look for in this comedy perfectly in tune with the times directed by Victoria Bedos...

Translation of the text from La Voix du Nord Le Mag

A touching French comedy with a gendered side with a young actress Brune Moulin (Best Actress Award at Alpe d'Huez 2023) who will certainly be talked about again as her transition from a self-conscious teenager to a charismatic boy orchestrated with a disconcerting naturalness is a success!

Translation of the text from La Jeune fille qui marivaude - Screentune

DETAILS

LANGUAGE

The language with sexual connotations may be offensive.

From the very beginning, when Marie-Luce Bison said her name, her classmates nicknamed her Marie-Suce translated by Marie-Blows.

When asked about this cruel nickname, the explanation: ... Because of her blow jobs. To which Marie-Luce replies: I don't blow anything.

Marie-Luce's father is anxious, he is watching a documentary that worries him:

Children like vampires leave their lairs for love, desire, and sex.

Images of young teens kissing and rubbing against each other. [They are fu... ing]

The seniors in the film also talk about sex:

Did you have sex? Rosaline asks Marie-Luce.

Rosaline, moreover, tries to seduce Vincent Bison by touching him. He calls it harassment. She admits bluntly: I love Roger, but I want to sleep with your father

It was also Rosaline who, while helping Marie-Luce to dress for the evening, said to her: "Did your mother have big boobs?"

Another senior sings a Gallic song about "hairs on her pussy" that can also be offensive.

When Leo falls, he/she says "I hurt my ass".

Very pejorative words about homosexuality are heard. Marie-Luce's father talks about Émile kissing a homo (un pédé)

Hugo, Chloé's boyfriend, makes fun of the kiss that Émile gives to Leo: "Two big fags"

Emile's kiss impresses: « It takes balls»

Marie-Luce, who was surprised by Albert's sexual orientation [I didn't know you were gay], innocently asked him: "So you have children?"

The games of seduction are being played in Manon's head, who would like to have a threesome but above all to catch Émile in her net ("pécho", slang) - "Have you scored?" Manon is asked.

She talks then about her reaction after Leo saves Emile's life with the Heimlich method

"I did mouth to mouth"

From time to time, depending on the context, coarse words are spoken.

When Jean-Jacques sings his wife's favorite song, he calls her a bitch. When Marie-Luce's dad catches Émile kissing another guy, he exclaims Oh, putain! translated by "son of a bitch"

"Shut up," said Marie-Luce, surprisingly.

"Little shits" [Bande de petits cons], « You are a real jerk" [T'es vraiment trop con] are heard.

VIOLENCE

There is no physical violence per se but above all a psychological discomfort caused by the cruelty of the students who harass Marie-Luce. She gets bumped by students' backpacks in the schoolyard as if she didn't exist.

The brief fight in the group resulted in the wig worn by Marie-Luce/Leo being torn off. No graphic violence.

Marie-Luce, saddened by the discovery of her stratagem, wanders in nature near rough waters. She falls and injures herself, but we can barely see a few marks on her face. Nothing graphic.

NUDITY

N/A

SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Sexuality remains verbal, as indicated in the language section. However, Leo and Émile kiss each other several times on the mouth.

Chloe kisses a girl on the mouth in the schoolyard.

In the documentary seen by Vincent Bison, young people kiss passionately.

When Leo saves Emile using the Heimlich method, the young people filming them think they look like they're fornicating.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT / MESSAGES

<https://www.1jour1actu.com/culture/cine-une-comedie-rejouissante-sur-les-filles-et-les-garcons>

- **The starting point:** happy to get closer to Émile, Marie-Luce sinks deeper and deeper into lies, without knowing how to go back. She is caught in her own trap, resulting in situations that are alternately hilarious and tragic.

Be careful, two or three moments (big kisses) and especially some rather crude dialogues can disturb the youngest movie viewers.

- **The message of love:** This comedy is about being free to love whoever you want, a person of the same sex or a different color.

- **The emotional relationship between Marie-Luce and her father:** at first, the man abandons her, because he is inconsolable since his wife has left. But little by little, he realizes that his daughter needs his presence, his listening, his advice.

- **The young actress, Brune Moulin:** radiant, she plays the shy Marie-Luce as well as a cool and charming boy with as much ease. Her performance even earned her **an award at the Alpe d'Huez Comedy Film Festival.**

Warning: alcohol consumption during the party and smoking. Marie-Luce takes Albert's cigar while he is dosing off and pretends to smoke it.

Translation

PHOTOS DU FILM



Marie-Luce's different looks : Marie-Luce Bison, Léo & Marie-Luce/Léo



Chloé and Manon like Léo



But the magic sparks between Émile and Léo





Life at the boarding house for seniors



Jean-Jacques celebrating his birthday

Albert became Marie-Luce's best friend.
He is helping her getting her party costume

