

# COEURS VAILLANTS – VALIANT HEARTS

*Original version: French / English subtitles*



**Director:** *Mona Achache*

**Release date (Québec) :** 27 mai 2022

**Genre:** *Drame/Aventure*

**Country of origin:** *France*

**Length :** *92 miN*

## SYNOPSIS

Summer, 1942. A truck carrying artworks from Le Louvre leaves Paris to hide them in a castle of domaine de Chambord. On board the vehicle are also six Jewish children. When the German soldiers arrive unexpectedly, Rose succeeds with having her guests escape by sending them to hide in the forest. Free and without adult supervision, the children find shelter in an abandoned shack, inventing games. Moments of joy follow moments of worries, while some adventures into the unknown will not be without consequences. However, one day they will have to try passing into the free zone.

<https://en.unifrance.org/movie/51314/the-little-gang#>

## REVIEWS

An odyssey told from the point of view of its heroes, for whom the craziness of the world, very real, sometimes fades behind the desire to play and be amazed. There are some nice finds, like this temporary protective haven of peace that represents an abandoned shack in the woods, symbol of an innocence that withers regardless of anxiety and dangers. And the kids are wonderfully natural. X.L. **Le Nouvel Obs**

The focus is mostly on those youngsters, their characters, their interactions, the life promises they hold within. **Femme Actuelle**

Touching and instructive for a young audience. **Télé Loisirs**

## DETAILS

### LANGUAGE

The spoken language is reliable with, however, a few rude words like “bastards”. Two pejorative remarks exchanged by two characters are to be mentioned: -Jacques, smiling, calls Hanna «dirty Jew» in spite of the fact that they are jealous of Paul's attention, the young boy who protects them. -Hannah calls Jacques homosexual because she sees him being attracted by Paul. Jacques and Hannah smile after this exchange that they find funny.

### VIOLENCE

Violence is never graphic. It is suggested by the presence of the soldiers and their weapons. The fear and anxiety felt by the children and their companions (Paul and Rose) imply that we fear violence. A wild boar is brought by the Forest Ranger, the German Commander pulls her revolver and shoots the animal. (This is without seeing the action).

### NUDITÉ

When the children are swimming they are wearing underpants, so nothing to report. We guess the body of the female character under her jumpsuit (underwear of the 40s era) wet.

### ACTIVITÉ SEXUELLE

Nothing to report

### PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT/MESSAGES

The beauty of the images:

The castle of Chambord – the lake – the forest with its animal life (wild boars, deers, fawns) and insects that scare one of the children. Beautiful moments of contact for Jacques with the deers.

The love and admiration of the paintings: a double-edged theme

The children, who have taken refuge in the room where the artworks are kept, admire them. We recognize La Joconde (Hannah has the impression that she is being followed by her eyes), a painting of Renoir. But when the German soldiers steal the artworks, some belonging to Le Louvre museum and to some Jewish families, the tone becomes serious.

Cigarettes/Smoking: Rose is a chain smoker. The children also find cigarettes in the shack and experiment smoking

The atmosphere: both light and distressing

The constant threat of being captured by the Germans for an unknown fate weighs in the film but the children, between themselves, cope and don't project as far.

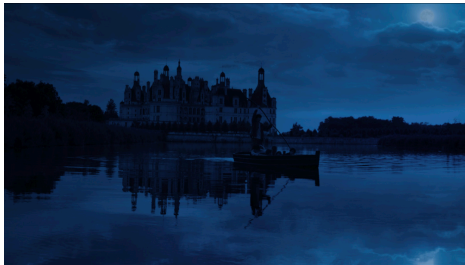
Impact caused by the disappearance of one of the children:

The film addresses this disappearance with sensitivity and truth

To be discussed:

The impact of human sacrifice during the war and the wars.

## PICTURES OF THE MOVIE



The Château de Chambord: starting point for the hidden children



Rose, the smuggler



The six Jewish children – 1942 in a room at the Château de Chambord



The cabin in the woods where children experiment (cigarettes, oven, etc.)

Sous l'œil de Rose, les enfants prennent le temps de manger avant de reprendre le chemin vers la zone libre

Sous l'œil de Rose, les enfants prennent le temps de manger avant de reprendre le chemin vers la zone libre.



Under the watchful eye of Rose, the children take the time to eat before heading back to the free zone