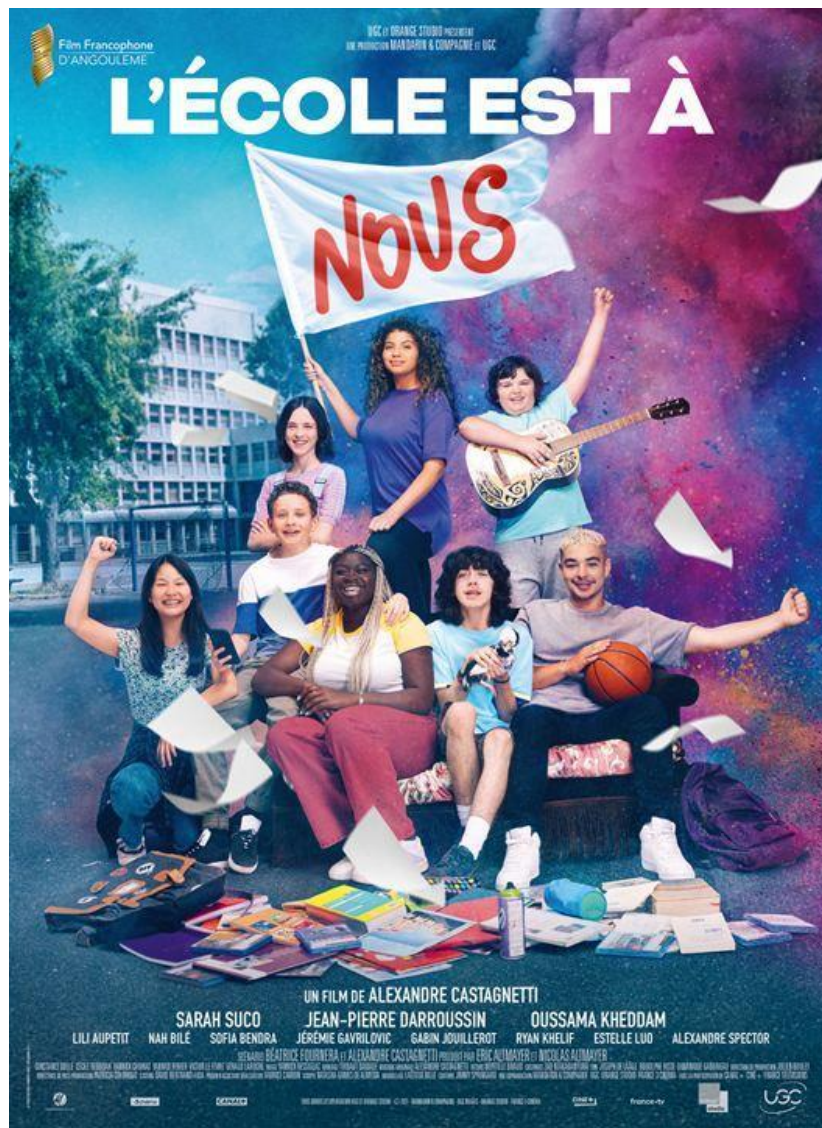


SCHOOL SOCIETY - *L'ÉCOLE EST À NOUS*

Original version: French/English subtitles



Director : *Alexandre Castagnetti*
Release Date (France) : *October 26, 2022*
Genre : *Social, « school » comedy*
Country of origin : *France*
Durée : *108 min.*

SYNOPSIS

Virginie is the new middle school mathematics teacher. When all her colleagues decide to go on a strike, she offers to stay and take care of the kids. Virginie's method is bold, simple yet innovative: to grant the students absolute freedom to do only... whatever they want! Obviously, this experiment has a shy start with some few twists. But, as the teenagers take over the school, some will find a true vocation, learn a few unexpected lessons... and make it truly theirs.
(Orange Studio)

REVIEWS

An invigorating plea for a school able to support individual choices and developments, carried by the interpretation of Sarah Suco, whose spontaneity echoes through to the interpretations of these teenagers in search of themselves – *Corinne Renou-Nativel* -**La Croix**

The director of "Tamara" confirms here that he knows how to capture and restore the life force of youth - *Caroline Vié* – **20 Minutes**

School Society overflows with joyous situations, which could nourish reflections on the redesigning of education, like the sequence in which the theory of games is explained, the relative importance of grading, the fundamental importance of the self confidence or the notion of favorable flow for learning and for the well-being of all - *Anne-Claire Cieutat* - **Bande à part**

Often funny and wonderfully interpreted (special mention to Sarah Suco), the author's film "La Colle" is just about right – *X.L* – **L'Obs**

DETAILS

LANGUAGE

The teenagers' language is colloquial, slang and sometimes coarse.

Malika sprinkles her remark with

Ça me casse les couilles – Class busts my balls

Pourquoi tout le monde me casse les couilles en fait? – Why all bust my balls?

Y' a pas d'Einstein ici, qu'est-ce qu'elle me casse les couilles! – No Einstein here, ball-buster

Je m'en bats les couilles – I don't give a shit!

So much so that the Senior Education Advisor, Mrs. Vidal, replied to him.

Ça suffit avec les couilles! – Give the balls a rest!

Here are the few words and expressions heard in the teenagers' dialogue in the film:

« ferme ta gueule », « ta gueule », « Fermez vos bouches »: Shut your mouth, Shut up, shut the hell up...

« on s'en branle »: we don't give a shit
« Bon sang! » : Dammit!

Other words more colloquial are part of the characters language:

« mecs » [guys], « mon pot » [buddy], « batteries de merde » [crap battery], « bâtard(s) » [bastard], « con » [nutjob], « connerie » [crap], « porte-clé » [slang for guards in the film translates as bitch]], « fayote »/ « lèche-cul » [brown nose/brown nosing] . “trous du cul” [assholes]

Words referring to the body

Gros bout – Fat ass

Although Kevin calls overweight Jonathan fat or fat ass, he teaches him how to take advantage of it.

Les seins - The breasts

When Bintou complains that her phone battery is dying, Kevin suggests that she should rub he phone against her breasts to charge the phone.

Words referring to sexual activity

Kevin confuses « biaiser » to have a slant] and « baiser » [to have sexual intercourse]

« On va les niquer » says Enzo which in the film translates by Let's fuck them!

MILF: the math teacher translates it by saying Mother I'd like to fuck

The acronym is used to describe a woman of mature age who is very sexually desirable. The term appeared around 1995. MILF refers to a pornographic genre.

Translation of the definition found in the Internaut website:

Le sigle est utilisé pour qualifier une femme d'âge mur très désirable sexuellement. Le terme est apparu vers 1995. MILF désigne un genre pornographique. (<https://www.linternaute.fr/dictionnaire/fr/definition/milf/>)

Vocabulary connected with various themes:

Politics: dictatorship, anarchy, freedom

Ecology: energy, electricity

Slurs :

Kevin plays with an antique abacus said to be a Chinese ancestor to the calculator according to his teacher Mrs. Thévenot. As she is explaining the facts, he says « Yamaha plus Kawasaki equals Son Goku » to which his teacher replies «this a Chinese object, not a Japanese.» The film is filled with negative allusions to the school system.

Montessori: the graduates know nothing except painting and salty paste

The film is filled with negative allusions on the school system, how it is not fit for students, the value of marks...

VIOLENCE

Enzo is a thug: he left school in grade 8, bums around the school with questionable buddies, troublemakers. Rejected by Malika, college schoolgirl and mother of his child, Enzo decides to ransack the work done by the students. He wrecks the flower boxes, damages the mural painting, and pushes the Principal to the ground. He eventually lashes out at Kevin, slapping him (not graphic), pushing him, and one of his thug friends kicks Kevin (off camera) lying on the ground. One scene later, Kevin shows a little mark on his cheek, as proof that he was beaten. Jonathan, too, is pushed to the ground by an older student who grabs the basketball and accuses him of being small and fat.

Twice, we see children physically fighting, however, without any signs of physical violence.

NUDITY

Nothing to report

SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Kevin and Bintou like each other. They look at each other with interest, but it is all just hints. Ousmane Gambi likes Virginie Thévenot, but she is in another space. He invites her out for a drink but she refuses.

Hints on their physical attraction is alleged, at the beginning, by Thierry, a teacher who seems to seduce women.

Oscar is the father of Malika's baby and acts like the master of the young girl, until she rejects him.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

This dialectic of idealism and realism, enchantment and disillusionment, comedy and drama, inherited right of Frank Capra, distributed with talent by Alexandre Castagnetti. It is her who makes her film so pleasant and, at the same time, conducive to reflection.

Le Monde

This review of the newspaper Le Monde sums up well both the content and the tone of the film. The relationships between teachers and teenagers of highschool are tense at the beginning because the system does not understand the needs of their students. Through the character of Virginie Thévenot, some changes take place, to the benefit of the school kids, but it remains fragile.

The beginning of the film delivers a few life features of the students:

- Emily, in the grip of demanding parents who do not listen to her
- Kevin obliged, teen playing the role of parent
- Malika without motivation and full of boredom

The relationships between teachers denote conflicts in a system that forces them to make a choice between preserving their work and act for the good for their students even if it means bending the rules.

The film deals with difficult subjects such as

- suicide (the film does not dwell on this)
- Vandalism
- Choice of future
- Teachers' strike and parents' anguish

A definite optimism emerges on the following subjects:

- Solidarity
- Support
- Self-confidence

Pictures of the film



Virginie Thévenot and part of her Grade 9 class
From left to right: Émilie, Chantal, Bintou, José, Kevin, Jonathan, Oscar

Daniel Laverne,
Principal



Virginie Thévenot, Math Teacher



The wall



Ousmane Gambi, Technology Professor



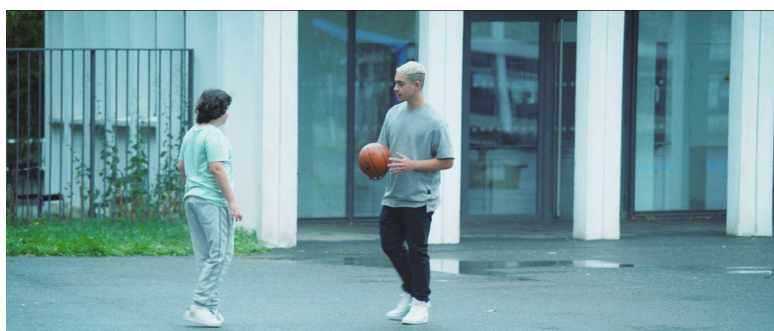
The Magic
Step –
Malika's
invention



Émilie in her
kitchen



Kevin et Jonathan playing basketball



José and his chicks

