

LA PETITE BANDE/ THE LITTLE GANG

Original version: French / English subtitles



Director: *Pierre Salvadori*
Release date (Quebec): *not yet announced*
Genre: *Comedy/Adventure*
Country of origin: *France*
Length : *108 min.*

SYNOPSIS

The little gang is Cat, Fouad, Antoine and Sami, four middle schoolers of 12 years old. By pride and provocation, they embark in a crazy project: blow up the warehouse that has been polluting their river for years. But in the group, freshly formed, disagreements are frequent and tied votes constantly paralyze the action. To arbitrate, they decide to add a member to their little gang, the rejected and solitary Aimé. As excited as agitated by the scope of their mission, the five accomplices will learn to live and fight together in this funny and uncertain adventure with a turn of event that will leave them stunned. <https://en.unifrance.org/movie/51314/the-little-gang#>

LES CRITIQUES

An incredible comedy to share with the family – Françoise Delbecq – **Elle**

Middle schoolers, ecos, but also apprentice pyromaniacs... In this endearing comedy. Pierre Salvadori films youth with no angelism – Mathilde Blottière – **Télérama**

A comedy of busling & absurde adventures that can charm kids as well as parents wishing to reconnect with this not-so-tender age – Baptiste Dion – Le Journal du Dimanche - **Le Journal du dimanche**

Pierre Salvador signs a contemporary story for children that is insolent, and a «divertissement estival enlevé» – Adrien Gombeaud – Les Echos– **Les Echos**

...an intelligent & refreshing movie for children – Nicolas Marcadé – Les Fiches du cinéma

DETAILS

LANGUAGE

The children express themselves in a colloquial & slang way. The word of exclamation that comes back the most is putain (shit) which very often expresses the strong emotions felt by the children of the gang, then come merde (shit/bummer) and one time La Vache! (Bitch) And Putain de merde!

Numerous themes in the film bring a particular language:

-the ecology with a vocabulary that gravitates around the pollution, the river, the warehouse garbage, the fuel, the fishes, the extinction of aquatic wildlife, etc.

- M. Chambon taken hostage that the children qualify as kidnapping
- o Aimé when he is captured, is scared is scared: merde, ils vont me tuer/ Vous allez me casser la gueule? [shit, they will kill me / You are going to break my face]
- o Aimé speaks of violent acts inflicted in jail to Antoine if he ends up there. Detailed descriptions, we will:

- burn his hair
 - lower his trousers in the canteen
 - break his face every day
 - do him disgusting sexual things
 - o the children are questioning the fate of their hostage: will they kill him or not?
 - o M. Chambon threatens to kill them, to have them locked up, to gut them, etc. when he can
 - o M. Chambon proposes the children money to be set free
 - o Aimé speaks with an English accent not to be recognized
- The way children communicate within themselves: extremely familiar, here are a few examples:
 - o Sami et moi on va foutre le feu à Chambon [Sami and I we will set Chambon on fire]
 - o Toi, t'es con? [You, you're stupid?]
 - o T'ont piqué tes pompes [They stole your shoes?]
 - o Tu vas l'accrocher à quoi ta corde?... À ton cul [What are you going to hang your rope at?...At your ass?]
 - o Vous êtes tarés! [You are crazy!]
 - o Quel enfoiré! [What a bastard!]
 - o Tu me fais chier! [You piss me off]
 - o Je vous ai entraîné dans cette merde pour moi.[I dragged you in this shit for me]
 - The comments made by the kids on their entourage:
 - o AimeÅ describes how Sami is treated: son peÅre lui fout des tartes [I dragged you in this shit for me]
 - o Cat speaking of her step-father: je le deÅteste, ce connard [I hate him, this bastard]
 - Il l'emmerde pour tout [He bothers her with everything][Cat speaks of her mother]
 - o C'est pas sa faute si c'est un con [It's not his fault if he is stupid] [Cat]
- by the subtitles that appear in the film.*

VIOLENCE

The Little Gang is a film of action and adventures in which the children are in constant motion

Aimé is bullied

Aimé is the victim of two schoolkids who steal his shoes, his food, hit him and plunge his head in a plate at the canteen. The scene in which they fight is not graphic but is intense: the camera stalls on Sami who doesn't defend himself. Later, Aimé has a black eye and marks on his face.

Aimé is caught by the gang

Aimé, the solitary, the rejected, is taken to the forest near the shack where M.Chambon is. His head is covered with a bag. Aimé is scared, he falls and hits a tree. The wound is only visible after the fact.

The kidnapping of M. Chambon

The children tie up M. Chambon, drag him out of the factory, M. Chambon bangs his head against bars along the way to the car. Comical effects without graphic details. The children physically mistreat their hostage: they step on his injured foot, tie him to a small post, Antoine taps on his head with a small tree trunk when M. Chambon catches Fouad and scuffles.

Malicious moves

- The theft of gasoline to set the Chambon factory on fire
 - Antoine's father taps his son behind the head for neglecting his homework, but he apologizes - Antoine burns the shack as the agents are approaching it
 - The car accident of M. Chambon is like remote controlled by his imaginary superhero powers.
- Incendie et explosion

Le film s'attarde sur les causes de l'incendie en montrant la violence du souffle sur les personnes qui regardent le feu se propager pour provoquer une explosion.

Fire and explosion

The film lingers on the causes of the fire by showing the violent wind on the people who are watching the fire spread and provoke an explosion.

La presque noyade et les conséquences de l'empoisonnement de la rivière

Au début du film et presque à la fin, Aimé se débat dans l'eau de la rivière : il se noie car ne sait pas nager. Il a été projeté là et ses camarades de la petite bande viennent le sauver.

Aimé perd une partie de ses cheveux, et tous ont des lésions qui les démangent sur la peau.

The near-drowning and the consequences of the poisoning of the river

At the beginning of the movie, and almost at the end, Aimé is struggling in the waters of the river: he drowns because he doesn't know how to swim. He was projected there and his buddies of the little gang come to his rescue. Aimé loses part of his hair, and all have itchy lesions on the skin.

NUDITY

Nothing to report

SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Allusion to the love that binds Fouad and Cat with tender gestures : brief kiss on the mouth with a mask, hug to express their affection. Sami likes Cat but doesn't admit it to her. All is in the hint.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

The young children can be shocked by the bullying Aimé endures from the two students of his school. Aimé seems to submit but when he integrates the little gang, he seems to be the leader of the game, which doesn't please Sami who takes revenge against Aimé by letting him be beaten by his stalkers.

The power of the children in the kidnapping of M. Chambon denotes a certain cruelty towards the boss of the factory.

The lie: each had other reasons other than the protection of the river and the ecology. The masks representing the game but, also, representing a way to keep your identity hidden from M. Chambon, except for Fouad.

The ecology: the initial idea was to set fire to the Chambon factory which contributes to polluting the river and destroying the environment. The children are ready to do anything to carry out their plan: they steal, they drag the inflatable boat through the mud and the garbage.

This movie is a tale according to the Director (see press kit)

<https://medias.unifrance.org/medias/110/217/252270/presse/la-petite-bande-dossier-de-presse-francais.pdf>

I knew from the very beginning that I wanted to do a **real mean**, a bloc of wickedness (about M. Chambon)

The warehouse, is **the castle of the ogre** that is frightening, but not too much. I wanted it to be imposing and scary. The warehouse produces strange sounds, between grunts and breaths. The great find of the Set Designer (Michel Barthélémy) is to have succeeded with **dramatizing their entrance** to the building via drain pipes filled with mud and dead fishes.

There is a **slightly organic** side that **reinforces the idea of a tale**. The shack, these are childhood memories even if I have never had such a pretty one. This shack had to make people dream. It's the extension of the territory, the habitat in the forest, in the maquis. When **it burns at the end**, it's also **the end of childhood**...the moment they learn, bitterly, that in commitment we sometimes sacrifice things.



NEWS - SORTIES CINÉ mercredi 20 juillet 2022

La Petite bande : la comédie idéale pour braver la canicule avec les enfants !

La Petite bande, nouvelle comédie haute en couleurs de Pierre Salvadori, risque bien d'apporter un vent de fraîcheur sur...

https://www.allocine.fr/film/fichefilm_gen_cfilm=283477.html

Excerpt from the article: However, because of certain scenes, a little tough relating to the plot of the kidnapping of the boss of the factory, The Little Gang is recommended for ages 10+

UN FILM ÉCOLO ?

ECO FILM?

Furthermore, The Little Gang raises awareness on the theme of ecology without being giver of lessons, one thing that Pierre Salvadori, writing the film, wanted to avoid at all costs.

He is of opinion that the children of today know well that their habitat is threatened, they are aware of the possibility of finiture but it doesn't overwhelm them. There is a form of amnesia specific to childhood that still keeps them available for games, inventions.

It is as if there were a new breed of «hybrid» children, in whom innocence and consciousness, lightness and despondency coexist, he analyzes.

https://www.allocine.fr/film/FICHEFILM_gen_cfilm=283477.html

LES PHOTOS DU FILM



Cat/Fouad/Antoine/Sami



Aimé



Cat et Fouad are in love



Mr. Chambon tied to a tree trunk. He is watched by his captors or masked kidnappers



The gang flees the car of Mr. Chambon who pursues them....