

Jean-Pierre Geffroy

Titles: 3 Sources: 1 Stills: 1

Born: Paris; September 22nd 1925



Second from left, in *"NOUS LES GOSSÉS"*

Source: *Junior Film Annual 1946-47*

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

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“His father, Henri-Charles Geffroy (1895-1981), was a medical journalist who did much to popularise "natural diet" in France through many books and through his periodical "La Vie Claire", which in turn led to the health food shops of the same name.

Out of some 2,000 young applicants, young Jean-Pierre was chosen by the actor Gaston Modot – who had had a hand in the script – to play the leading role of Rozet in Louis Daquin's "**NOUS LES GOSSES**", probably the most popular French children's film of all time. As it appeared in 1941, under the German occupation, this story of youthful solidarity was taken to the Parisian heart almost as a metaphor of survival.

It tells how an accident-prone boy kicks a football through an expensive school window, how his schoolmates raise the replacement money through fantastic commercial and artistic enterprise in the streets, how the money is then stolen by a pair of spivs, and how the kids get it back and bring them to justice. The story ends with a moving speech of congratulation from the headmaster – after which the same hapless boy propels a football through the brand-new window.

It's a film of lovely gags and lovely performances. Among some rather less honourable money-raising ploys (spraying mud onto the shoes of passing gentlemen to boost the boot-blackening, or posing as the starving children of a fake beggar) is a very thoughtful one: they all agree to donate their "cinema money", but in case the parents ask what they have been to see, just one boy is deputed to go to the cinema and then retail the plot to the rest. Unfortunately he falls asleep in the middle of "**LA DAME AUX CAMÉLIAS**" and wakes up again in the middle of the supporting cowboy film – with predictably charming results when one of his mates has to describe the plot to his elders.

Geffroy (wrongly credited on the film as "Geoffroy") was 15 at the time of filming, but looks and sounds two years younger. He has a remarkable, streamlined face which recalls a Norman knight looking fiercely through his helmet, its power contrasting touchingly with the skinny body and the gentle, musical voice. He breathes utter desolation when the money vanishes and he, of all people, is suspected of pinching it.

Jean-Pierre's real-life parents, however, had a poor opinion of theatricals, and though he was

allowed two more tiny film parts, there could be no question of pursuing an acting career. He married and settled down to help run the family health business. He is now an absurdly youthful grandfather – a tribute, presumably, to his father's dietary regime.”

FILMOGRAPHY

<i>Year</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Role</i>
41	15	NOUS LES GOSSES ("Us Kids")	as Rozet with <i>Jean Buquet</i>
42	16	LA BELLE AVENTURE ("The Glorious Adventure")	
42		LE VOILE BLUE ("The Blue Veil")	with <i>Michel Francois</i>