

Bébert et l'Omnibus

("Bébert and the Bus"; UK = "The Holy Terror")

France : 1963 : dir. Yves Robert : Productions de la Gueville : 95 min

prod: Danièle Delorme & Yves Robert : scr: François Boyer : dir.ph.: André Bac

Petit Gibus (Martin Lartigue)

Jean Richard; Blanchette Brunoy; Pierre Mondy; Michel Serrault; Jacques Higelin;
Sophie Grimaldi; Jean Lefèbvre; Christian Alers; Christian Marin; Albert Remy

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ ∅ Z ∞	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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*Lovable mischief-maker? or tiresome little dimwit? A matter of nice judgement.
Source: The Moving Picture Boy*

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"During a family's preparations for a holiday a troublesome little boy sets off on his own. He and the family members who search for him experience all kind of adventures. Likable and refreshing comedy for all ages, although Petit Gibus (from Robert's "GUERRE DES

BOUTONS") is sometimes a rather irritating child actor. ** "

Films & Filming - July 1965 - review:

"Yves Robert has made a mild and intermittently amusing little comedy, from a novel by the author of "Jeux Interdits", about a small boy of prankish disposition who causes many of his elders concern and irritation when

he gets lost. Much of the action takes place at a railway station, where any amount of funny things can happen, but the only real touches of filmic grace come at the end when a firecracker is thrown into a load of explosives and the result is jump-cut in time to music.

Much of the burden is carried successfully by the child actor, Martin Lartigue, who was "Gibus" in "**LA GUERRE DES BOUTONS**" (also produced by Robert in association with Danièle Delorme). The observation of heightened and depressed spirits is most persuasive as the kid perpetrates minor outrages one minute and lapses into escape dreams of cream cakes the next, and a lot of the situations have an agreeably light inventiveness; but there is scarcely enough to it to justify the running time, which should have been an hour at the outside with all the best things coming thick and fast. Even so, it makes a pleasant change, and the effort involved is never obvious." – Gordon Gow

Excerpt from **The Moving Picture Boy** entry on Lartigue:

"The irrepressible "Tigibus" of "**LA GUERRE DES BOUTONS**" – the most popular French children's film of the last 40 years – was the son of a painter, and grandson of the great photographer Jacques-Henri Lartigue, who died as recently as 1986. Louis Pergaud's "gallic, epic and rabelaisian" story of the few-holds-barred warfare between the boys of the villages of Longeverne and Velrans had been a minor classic since its appearance in 1912. Its name was taken from the Velrans' tactic of disabling captured Longevernes by cutting the buttons off their trousers – a tactic the Longevernes eventually trumped by going into battle stark naked and with nothing to lose...

Martin Lartigue had the comic role of the baby of the party, Petit Gibus or "Tigibus" – younger brother of Grangibus – and made it his field-day, showing a total lack of soldierly qualities, getting drunk on patrol, and grumbling incessantly and ungrammatically. He was perhaps over-cute, but hammed it up to good effect.

An attempt to repeat the triumph a year later, starring Martin as a child who repeatedly gets mislaid "with hilarious results", proved a mistake. The spectacle of a child of ten or more behaving like a rather moronic five-year-old was merely embarrassing.

After playing the lead in a TV serialisation of "**Huckleberry Finn**", Martin held his peace for a few years, and then – still holding it – began to study mime. He did theatre work with Robert Dhéry, and made a cartoon film with Xavier Gélin, then decided to give up performing. He had been a great fluffer of lines and, surprisingly, a martyr to stage fright.

In his mid-twenties he left Paris for the Auvergne and began to paint in a naïf style, following in his father's footsteps. He has had several exhibitions."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Not to be confused with the 1936 Jane Withers vehicle "**THE HOLY TERROR**", nor a 1977 psycho-thriller of the same name with Paula Sheppard (and Brooke Shields' debut feature). Not having seen this, it wouldn't be fair to pass judgement, but if it is anything like "**ZAZIE DANS LE METRO**" (60), another would-be comedy in which a sassy 9-year old girl from the provinces makes short work of Paris, then it will be more annoying than amusing.

See subject index under **COMEDY, DIRECTORS, LOST AND FOUND** and **RASCALS & SCALAWAGS**.

