

Le Jouet

("The Toy")

France : 1976 : dir. Francis Veber

: 92 min

prod: : scr: Francis Veber : dir.ph.:

[Fabrice Gréco](#)

Pierre Richard; Michel Bouquet; Suzy Dyson; Michel Aumont; Daniel Ceccaldi; Michel Robin;
Charles Gérard; Jacques François

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Kbytes	Ω	□	≠	Z	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
3800b	1½	3	3		-	-	3	3	-	No	Unseen



Before the Gimme Generation, it was still possible to make a film comedy about an over-indulgent parent gratifying the child's every idle consumer wish...

Source: indeterminate website



Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide
1996 review:

"To show up his cutthroat father, a rich boy buys a human toy. Sometimes funny, sometimes not... but it's miles ahead of the American remake **"THE TOY"**. Veber also scripted. **½ "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"Journalist is put to the test by an industrialist who, apart from the magazine, also owns a chain of department stores. He's seen in the shop window of one these by the boss's son, who's allowed to pick out a toy and chooses him. Satirical comedy alternates between mild and aggressive humour and allows comic Richard to function at his best. Writer Veber's directorial debut was not a success at the première, but became steadily more widely known and was remade as **"THE TOY"**. ***"

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89
review:

"Engaging, heartwarming comedy about a schnook (Richard) who is hired to be a living toy for the spoiled son (Greco) of a wealthy businessman (Bouquet). Richard combines pathos and slapstick to good effect. *** "

[no listing in "Classic Foreign Films", "The Companion to French Cinema", "Halliwell's Film Guide", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "International Film Guide 1976", "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. (In some English language film guides you'll find such titles listed under "L" for "Le", which doesn't seem overly optimistic about the reader's intelligence.) Nothing else is known of Fabrice Gréco. The 1982 American remake, with Richard Pryor and Scott Schwartz, was fairly dire: Pryor seemed uncomfortable and out of his metier in an essentially tame clown role (his being black threw in unnecessary racial connotations to the domestic slave theme) while director Richard Donner opted for a cloying Family Values message rather than playing the idea for its anarchic or satirical potential.

If we reach further, the story has parallels with, for example, **"THE SPANISH GARDENER"**, where Jon Whiteley develops a crush on young pelota-playing Dirk Bogarde, exciting at first intense jealousy in his father, but finally winning due respect and affection. And the central premise was inverted, if you will, in comedies like **"RENT-A-KID"** or **"NORTH"** with their off-the-peg children themes.

See also **"THE TOY"**, and subject index under **BRATS / SPOILED CHILDREN, COMEDY, NANNIES / GOVERNESSES / DOMESTIC SERVANTS** and **TOYS / GAMES / MODELS**.