

My Dog Skip

US : 2002 : dir. : ? min
prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Frankie Muniz](#)
Adult cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5647	1.5	1	1	444	-	-	-	-	-	No	unseen

Metro review:

"This autobiographical coming-of-age tale, based on author Willie Morris's bestseller, tells the story of Willie (Frankie Muniz, of "**Malcolm in the Middle**" fame). A shy youngster living in 1940s Mississippi, Willie is brought out of his shell when his parents give him a Jack Russell puppy for his birthday. As a result, he manages to win over local bullies, discover the joys of sport and embark on a friendship with the best-looking girl in school. But when his older friend, the town hero, returns from the war in disgrace, Willie vents his disappointment on Skip, who runs away. The canine in question is played by Moose, who also played Eddie, the eccentric pooch from "**Frasier**"."

No further information currently available. Hmm, American cinema just can't forbear offering facile solutions to the perennial problem of bullying, and all of its solutions are phoney. It isn't a very edifying message, especially for kids, that hostile mean-spirited types, like the poor, will always be with us, they will always prey on the vulnerable, and they will usually get away with it. That's the unalloyed truth of the matter, but not upbeat enough for commercial cinema.

And all too predictably, though this film is set in the 1940s, it conforms at once with every other film and TV series about boyhood made in the last twenty years, by redefining boys as apprentice heterosexuals, anxious to learn the ropes. The archive contains abundant evidence of this cultural redefinition process, which has gone largely unremarked elsewhere, and the question is why (heterosexual) adults prefer to believe these days that children share the same sexual yearnings they do, while at the same time ferociously resisting the thought kids should be allowed to do anything about it. Whatever the case may be at the turn of the century, in the 1940s boys had other priorities I suspect. This insistence on giving every boy character a girlfriend, however young he may be, rather smacks of a bizarre new paranoia.

Boy and his dog tales have been passé for some while ("**FREE WILLY**" was the same kind of yarn, employing a cetacean substitute, of course), but it must have seemed an irresistible idea to team the dog from "**Frasier**" with the kid from "**Malcolm in the Middle**", both having shown their credentials in sophisticated light comedy.

See subject index under **AUTOBIOGRAPHY**, **BOY MEETS GIRL**, **BULLYING** and **DOGS**.