

Le Petit Bougnat

("Little Charcoal")

France : 1969 : dir. Bernard T Michel :

: 95 min

prod: : scr: François Boyer : dir.ph.:

[Claude Amazan](#); [Isabelle Adjani](#) [d]

Vincenzo Sartini; Guy Allombert; Michel Théodon; Michel Gérard; Virginie Charletoux; Christophe Charletoux

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	□	≠	Z	⌘	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"A mother has forgotten to sign her young son up for a holiday camp. He runs away from home to go there all the same and after the usual complications is admitted. His stay there is not to his liking so that he wants to run away from there too. Screenplay by François Boyer – who wrote successful films with children such as "JEUX INTERDITS" and "LA GUERRE DES BOUTONS" – resulted in a weaker film because the director was not able to get natural performances from most of his young actors. An exception is fourteen-year old Adjani in her debut as a girl for whom the central character nurses an unrequited puppy love [sic]. **"

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Amazon:

"Claude, son of a doctor and a midwife, was a striking black child actor. In the title role of "LE PETIT BOUGNAT" he had a disagreement with a little girl about the desirability of a summer camp holiday. He then played the page Zamore in a TV serialisation of a novel by Dumas père."

[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. I'm not sure what to make of that title – "Little Charcoal" – which, even if it's a pet name the hero answers to, doesn't sound too far removed from "Little Sambo". And if it's meant as a racial epithet – the boy's not welcome at the summer camp because of his colour – then the review might have pointed this out. It's news to me also that France has a similar custom to the US of parents parking their children, willing or no, at children's camps for the duration of the long summer holiday. I'd always thought this a system peculiar to the States. Claude Amazan was 11, and the television serial Holmstrom mentions was "Balzamo" (72). For the converse situation, see "BARNENS Ö" (Sweden 79), in which the hero (Tomas Fryk) dodges out of being packed off to "Children's Island" so that he can spend the summer exploring life on his own terms.

See subject index under **BLACK PERSPECTIVES & CULTURE**, **BOY MEETS GIRL**, **RUNAWAYS / STOWAWAYS** and **SUMMER CAMP / SUMMER SCHOOL**.

