

Sans Famille

("Without Family")

France : 1934 : dir.

: ? min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

[Robert Lynen](#); [Serge Grave](#)

Adult cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω 8 € M ♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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"The Moving Picture Boy" entry on Serge Grave:

"If Serge Grave, perhaps the best French boy actor of the 1930s, had started making films as young as Billy Butts [a US contemporary], he would have notched up a whole pageful. As it is, starting at 14, he didn't do badly, with three big leads in 1936: as Claudinet (the Lewis Shaw part) in the talkie remake of "LES DEUX GOSSES", as Lebrac in "LA GUERRE DES GOSSES" (itself remade in 1963 as "LA GUERRE DES BOUTONS", its proper title) and as Asticot, opposite Maurice Chevalier, in "LE VAGABOND BIEN-AIMÉ" (the part taken by Desmond Tester in the British version). He also played the villain-as-a-boy in Guity's "ROMAN D'UN TRICHEUR".

He was now 16 - young for his age, but with a late-developing tendency to shoot up, and the beginnings of an aquiline nose. By contrast with the homely Tester, Grave was ardent, romantic and patrician, like a fledgling Gérard Philipe. Two years later, aged nearly 19, Serge Grave was still playing a schoolboy in "LES DISPARUS DE SAINT-AGIL", and doing it with some grace, but there was a strong sense of knobbly knees. By 1941 he was a prisoner of war in German hands. When peace arrived, he resumed his career and had youthful roles in several films - but not many after 1950. He retired in favour of a career in schools television. "

No further information currently available. Holmstrom's book is the bible on these early boy players, and the research which must have gone into it is phenomenal. Shaw was 15, having made the serial "LES DEUX GOSSES" ("The Two Kids") the year before. In 1925 he also made "CONFESSIONS" back in the UK. Guichard was 11 - a sort of diminutive Lilian Gish - and his other films included "LE NOEL DU PERE LATHUILLE" ('22), "LES MYSTERES DE PARIS" ('22), "TITI PREMIER, ROI DES GOSSES" ("Titi the First, King of Kids", '26) and "ARMES D'ENFANTS" ("Children's Souls", '27)

"SANS FAMILLE" was first filmed in Belgium in 1912, and was remade in 1934, 1944 and 1957. There was also a Japanese animated version: "CHIBBIKO REMI TO MEIKEN CAPI" (1970), a 1985 American animated version, "NOBODY'S BOY", and a TV cartoon series.

See these other versions, and subject index under CIRCUS / CLOWNS / FAIRGROUNDS, DOGS, HEIRS / HEIRETTES, KIDNAPPING, SILENT CINEMA and SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS.

: 3678

(Unseen)

SANS FAMILLE

("No Family")

France / Italy / Germany : 1957 : dir.
Andr  Michel : 100 min
Jo l Flateau; Christian Fourcade; Jacques
Moulli res; Gino Cervi; Pierre Brasseur;
Bernard Blier; Simone Renant; Maurice
Teynac; Raymond Bussi res; Paulette
Dubost
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Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"As a child, Remi is kidnapped from his family on the question of an inheritance and at seven years old is sold to a travelling carnival with animal attractions. Hector Malot's famous novel was given precisely the right filmic approach whereby both the melodrama is handled seriously and the humour given full rein (but no more than that), through which the result remains thrilling and touching for all ages.
*** "

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Jo l Flateau:

"Jo l sprang from the union of two great French theatrical families. His maternal great-great-grandfather, for instance, Jules Barbier, wrote the libretti for Gounod's "Faust" and "Rom o et Juliette"; one of his great-grandfathers, Jean D'Yd, was a famous actor, and another, L on Flateau, directed a Paris theatre, La Cigale. His own parents were the actors Serge Flateau and Pierrette Castan. It was almost inevitable that he would be the leading boy actor of his generation in France.

When he was five he auditioned as a pianist at the Paris Conservatoire (he would later play the child Mozart on TV), and at six made his screen debut as a sick child in " CHEC AU PORTEUR". At seven he had the classic role of R mi in Andr  Michel's remake of "SANS FAMILLE", and the leads now came thick and fast. On TV he was "Little Lord Fauntleroy", l'Aiglon, Pip in "Great Expectations", the Lazariillo and the "Bon Petit Diable". In the cinema he played C sariot in Joshua Logan's remake of "FANNY", and in Carl Foreman's "THE VICTORS" - bravely - a boy prostitute offering himself to exhausted GIs. He was fluent in English and Spanish.

After playing a lead in Bernard Romy's "L'ACTE" (Switzerland '68) much of his activity transferred to Switzerland, where he formed his own pop groups "Phoetus" (contributing keyboard and vocals) and later "Magic Power". For the time being, at least, he has turned his elegant back on acting. "

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Christian Fourcade:

"This sad-eyed child was already popular in France before becoming the second French boy in three years to be flown across the Atlantic to the bosom of Bing Crosby - who this time, in "LITTLE BOY LOST", was searching for his own son rather than a potential adoptee. Prophetically, Christian had been in "VOYAGE EN AM RIQUE" the year before. He enjoyed Hollywood, but admitted to an occasional longing for a dish of snails.

In "BRELAN D'AS", a portmanteau film, he was in the episode "A Choirboy's Evidence". Later he was to play some of the classic French boy-roles, such as Le Souris in "CRAINQUEBILLE", Gavroche in "LES MIS RABLES" and R mi in "SANS FAMILLE". After 1957 Fourcade's acting career continued for another decade or so. He was in "PAR-DESSUS LE MUR" ('59), "LE CAPITAN" ('60) and many more. But their importance dwindled, to him at least. By the early seventies he was running a stud-farm at Rambouillet. "

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Jacques Moulli res:

"Jacques Mouli re (as he was born) was a dark, fierce, sensitive boy who contributed memorably to French films of the Fifties. In streetwise or gypsyish parts he was matchless. After 1959 he appeared in at least one more feature film, "UN CLAIR DE LUNE A MAUBEUGE" ('62). But Jacky Mouli re - he reverted to his authentic name - now turned himself into a pop singer, making records as well as performing in live concerts and broadcasting. "

No further information currently available. Six (!) other film adaptations are known from the same novel: under the same title in 1912 (Belgium), 1925, 1934 and 1944 (Italy), plus two animated versions: "CHIBBIKO REMI TO MEIKEN CAPI" (1970), and a 1985 English language remake by Jim Flocker, "NOBODY'S BOY". The Japanese version (also released in dubbed form as "NOBODY'S BOY") spawned a long-running TV series. One source describes Flocker's film as "Blandly-animated run-of-the-mill video fare about an orphan's search for his mother [eh??]. Along the way he's befriended by a St Bernard, a chimp, and a parrot. Featuring the voice of Jim Backus."

Joël Flateau was 7. His other boyhood films include "DROLES DE PHÉNOMENES" ('58), "LES JEUX DANGEREUX" ('58 - again with Moulières), "SI LE CIEL S'EN MELE" ('59) and "EN FRANCE COMME SI VOUS Y ÊTIEZ" ('64). Clearly we should like to know a deal more about his TV performances in so many familiar riles.

Christian Fourcade, who plays Rçmi advanced in years, was 15. He made "LA

MATERNELLE" ('48), "GAMINS DE PARIS" ('53), "LE PETIT JACQUES" ('53), "BONJOUR JEUNESSE" ('56) and many others. Moulières was 13 and made some seventeen films 1953-59, among them "CHIENS PERDUS SANS COLLIERS" ('55) and "COUP DUR CHEX LES MOUS" ('55). He had a part in the 1956 American film "THE HAPPY ROAD" with Bobby Clark and Brigitte Fossey.

See also the previous versions, and subject index under ANIMALS, CIRCUS / CLOWNS / FAIRGROUNDS, HEIRS / HEIRESSES and KIDNAPPING.

"He kept on running in Naderi's "AAB, BAAD, KHAK", a drama of drought set in the parched land of the Iranian-Afghan border. But the Iranian authorities, who had already castigated "DAWANDEH" as a slur on their country, and had failed to get Naderi to apologise for it, now banned the showing of both films. Naderi was granted political asylum in the USA, and Majid and his elder brother Mansur Nirumand fled into Pakistan."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "Bloomsbury Foreign Film Guide", "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

See also "BADKONAK-E SEFID" and "BASHU" - both recent Iranian films, and subject index under ARAB WORLD / MIDDLE EAST.