

LE PRINCE OUBLIÉ



By Michel Hazanavicius
Year 2020
Duration 101 min
Genre Comedy, adventure
Language French (English subtitles)
Country France, Belgium
Recommended for 9 years and older

SYNOPSIS

Djibi is a single father whose life entirely revolves around his beloved 8-year-old daughter Sofia. Every night, during their cherished bedtime stories ritual, he takes her to “Storyland”, a fantasy film studio where their extraordinary fairy-tale adventures come to life, starring Djibi as the heroic Prince Charming. Three years later and nearly a teenager, Sofia starts growing out of her father’s stories and making up tales of her own, where Djibi no longer plays the lead role. Djibi must find a way to forever remain the hero of his daughter’s life and stories.

FILM REVIEWS

Sy provides an affectionate portrayal of a big goofball who might well embarrass his offspring, while Gaye displays an unusual maturity and directness for a juvenile lead. The sense of a family affair is bolstered by the presence of Hazanavicius’ wife Bérénice Bejo as a helpful neighbour.

The Guardian

A touching tale. A simple but well put together scenario. A refreshing poetic treatment, thwarting all cynicism. Quality interpretation. With *Le Prince oublié*, Michel Hazanavicius (*OSS 117*, *L’Artiste*, *Le Redoutable*) once again shows his taste for risky projects. His moving tale alternates scenes from everyday family life and fanciful intrigues in a metaphorical universe with flashy colors and kitsch movie sets. Yet, by favouring a refreshing poetic treatment devoid of any cynicism, the filmmaker avoids all the pitfalls of ridicule. And manages to make captivating a narrative that could fit in a line, thanks to chiseled writing and well-drawn characters, championed by an excellent cast. The special effects are worthy of the best Hollywood movies, with emotion and a very French humour on top of it.

Media Film (translated from French)

Omar Sy, as an abandoned dad, Bérénice Bejo, as a lonely bachelor, and François Damiens as a phoney two-bit felon, are in the right place. Michel Hazanavicius makes his universe plausible and his special effects are up to the task. For his music, he also calls on Howard Shore, the composer for David Cronenberg and *The Lord of the Rings*.

France Info (translated from French)

Le Prince oublié reminds us of *La Boum*, also about the transition to adolescence, especially since a surprise party is at the heart of both films. But Hazanavicius adds a reflection on the exit from childhood through the loss of one’s imaginary world. An imaginary world that he identifies with cinema, where filmmakers and actors are grown-up children who, according to Orson Welles, play with a big electric train set as they are making a film.

This comedy about a father confronting his growing daughter flirts with the fantastic in an original way.

20 Minutes (translated from French)

Michel Hazanavicius signs a pretty tale about adolescence and the relationship between father and daughter.

CNews (translated from French)

It is above all a family film about the universal dimension of a touching father-daughter relationship, with an Omar Sy in a role that resembles him.

Le Journal du Dimanche (translated from French)

In the middle of colourful sets and dazzling special effects, the father-daughter couple proves to be very touching.

Le Parisien (translated from French)

Somewhere between *The Princess Bride* and *Inside Out*, with a dash of *Degrassi Junior High* tossed in for teen angst purposes, this latest feature from *The Artist* director Michel Hazanavicius is both a coming-of-age story set just outside Paris and a meta-fictional take on the kind of family-friendly fantasies usually made by The Walt Disney Company.

Hollywood Reporter

LANGUAGE

The characters in the film speak in a direct, colloquial language.

Some slang words: *dégueu* (yucky, short form of *dégueulasse*) *con* (jerk), *connerie* (stupid thing), *on s'en fout* (who cares) and swear words : *merde* (shit), *fait chier* (piss off)

VIOLENCE

In the imaginary world, a few scenes where the characters are in the presence of danger:

A princess on the roof of the house looks like she is going to be attacked by a blue ogre.

We understand that the prince and Pritpout beat up the new prince inside a dressing room behind a closed door. When they open the door, the new prince is unconscious. They put him in a plastic tree trunk. These are implicit actions.

There is an earthquake and Pritpout and the prince are quite scared. The ground cracks, buildings crumble and debris fall everywhere, putting the actors and an elephant in danger

Pritpout pushes Djibi who falls into a dungeon. (But the prince and the new prince are safe and sound after their fall at the bottom of the dungeon.)

During a storm, the wind blows very hard and the prince and Pritprout are in danger of being hit by debris falling over their heads.

NUDITY

None to report.

SEXUAL ACTIVITY

None to report.

Sofia and Max smile at each other and are about to kiss. We don't see their kiss.

The following sequence briefly shows Djibi and Clotilde kissing each other on the lips and smiling.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

We learn that Sofia's mother is dead and therefore that Djibi is a widower.

Sofia lies to her father. After he gets angry, she cries in her bedroom as she tears the sheets from her sketchbook and says she is fed up.

Djibi is concerned about the first romantic relationship that his daughter could have with Max.

In the imaginary world, he wants to get rid of the new prince (Max). At the end of the movie, he accepts that Sofia is growing up and needs more freedom.

TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL USE

No tobacco use to report.

Djibi and Clotilde drink a glass of white wine as they chat in her apartment.

PHOTOS OF THE FILM



Djibi and Sofia on their way home after school. They are happy together.



Djibi is a caring and loving father. He is telling Sofia the story of the prince.



The prince's imaginary world as told by Djibi, also a large film set.



The villain Pritprout and the prince are hiding.



The new prince (Max) who replaces Djibi in the heart of his daughter Sofia.



Djibi, the neighbour Clotilde and Sofia.