

KING GUILLAUME

French with English subtitles



Directed by: Pierre-François Martin-Laval

Genre: comedy

Country of origin: France

Runtime: 85 min.

3 nominations at l'Alpe d'Huez International Film Festival of comedy
(2009) for:

The Star of Laughter

Audience Prize

Youth Jury Prize



SYNOPSIS

Adapted from the French comic book *Panic in London*, director Pierre-Francois Martin-Laval's sophomore feature tells the tale of a forgotten isle inhabited by five people who live like they're in medieval times while awaiting the arrival of their new king. Tourist train driver Guillaume (Martin-Laval) and his tuba-playing wife, Magali (Florence Foresti), are deeply in love. They lead a blissful life in the suburbs, and they've just discovered they're about to start a family when the father Guillaume never knew contacts the couple with a shocking announcement: by virtue of an accord reaching back to the Middle Ages, Guillaume is the heir to a kingdom located just off the coasts of France and England. But while the elated couple at first imagine themselves living in an island castle and presiding over a paradise filled with faithful subjects, the reality of the situation isn't quite so romantic. Battered by North winds, the island is little more than a glorified rock. To make matters worse, the current residents are five eccentrics who seem to have forgotten what century they live in. Now, while Magali gets wrapped up in the prospect of becoming a genuine queen and Guillaume celebrates his status as a crowned head, their new servants scramble to cover up the truth about the island until their new ruler can no longer renounce his throne. ~ **Jason Buchanan, Rovi**

http://www.fandango.com/kingguillaume_v480754/plotsummary

REVIEWS

The very young viewers will love the island in the shape of a frog (what more natural for the French living in an island snatched from the English!) (...). They will laugh at the leaning shipwreck because a glass on a leaning table falls down and breaks, they will stifle with laughter when they see Florence Foresti knock off everything in the hospital without knowing it and they will discover that with money one can buy loads of clothes like "Pretty Woman" (like who? They would ask)

Translation of:

Les tous jeunes spectateurs adoreront l'île en forme de grenouille (normal pour des Français sur une île prise aux anglais !) (...) Ils rigoleront à l'épave du bateau penchée parce qu'un verre sur une table penchée ça tombe et ça casse, ils s'étoufferont de rire de voir Florence Foresti tout zigouiller dans l'hôpital sans qu'elle s'aperçoive de rien et ils découvriront qu'avec de l'argent on peut s'acheter plein de fringues façon Pretty Woman (« façon qui ? » me diraient-ils !)

Mathieu Payan

<http://www.abusdecine.com/critique/king-guillaume>

DETAILS

◆ LANGUAGE

The language is familiar with a few coarse words like “crap” or “crappy” or “bastard”. The characters speak in the context of their roles and situations with comedic tones in the slurs. For instance when William-Fernand hopes for an heir to the island he says: “*if she is a girl make sure she has a willy*” he is discriminating against girls as he wants a king to reign on the island.

The whole beginning of the film is a mockery of the island and the way it was acquired. Magali’s tone is snobbish when she refers to monarchy, as she seems to say that royals are superior beings.

As Magali and Guillaume go to their first visit for the baby, they discover they are expecting twins so instead of saying “twins” they say they made “a couple” (slight sexual innuendo)

The names of the characters are quite funny as they combine an English name with a French name: the king’s name is Cyril John Delagny. His faithful valet is William-Fernand, etc. always playing on the duality and rivalry of French/English.

Warning: the film starts in English for a few minutes then goes into French language. One other scene is in English when William-Fernand takes Guillaume to the solicitor who cannot speak English as Guillaume does not understand him either.

◆ VIOLENCE

No violence.

When Magali knocks off the monk from the shelf and tears an expensive painting without knowing it, it is funny but reprehensible to be so careless with a sword.

◆ NUDITY

When the doctor proceeds to the ultrasound of Magali and Guillaume baby, a brief view of the bare pregnant stomach is seen.

Hélène Brunel is the mother of Guillaume: she is seen frolicking on the beach with a skimpy bikini (no nudity though)

◆ SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Kissing and affectionate gestures between husband and wife.

◆ PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

The film is adapted from a comic book, which gives a comedic, eccentric tone to all deeds and words.

Although they are meant to be irreverently funny, these few features may surprise teenaged viewers:

- * The death of the old king of “Guerreland”: his coffin is tossed with the “mourners” giving their backs to the deceased and spitting, to keep up with ancestral traditions.

- * Guillaume's eulogy in the middle of somebody else's funeral in the church is somewhat disrespectful to everybody. This is part of the plot to have Guillaume accept to become king.
- * The film seems to glorify lying but it turns out that, again, it is part of the "DNA" of the 5 inhabitants of the island (they are traitors)
William-Fernand deliberately mistranslates what the solicitor says in order to keep Guillaume in the belief that he does not have any other choice but accept to be king.
- * The old rivalry between the French and the English is being laughed at.
 - o The name of the island is "Guerreland" either evoking a garland (a decorative wreath), or referring to war "guerre" or again mocking the existing tiny islands of Guernsey, belonging to the British Crown.
 - o The oxford Professor seems to equate French to traitors again on a comedic tone.
 - o Guillaume does not understand English and the solicitor does not grasp French: this is symbolizing the wall between the French and the English.
- * Although it is a hilarious detail when unwillingly Magali knocks off the monk from the shelf and tears off part of the valuable painting with the ancestral sword, the film nevertheless shows an act of vandalism. But again this is tongue in-cheek style!
- * As the inhabitants of the island find themselves in a shelter, the film maintains its humourous tone.
- * Magali's action to spend all of the couple's savings because she is becoming a monarch is meant to mock her frivolous ways. Guillaume is more prudent but it is too late when he realizes what Magali did!

PICTURE GALLERY FROM THE FILM



www.unifrance.org

*King Cyril- John Delagny and his faithful William-
Fernand*



<http://www.allocine.fr/film/fichefilm-135916/photos/detail/?cmediafile=19022822>

The King's subjects: 5 inhabitants



www.unifrance.org

The leaning shipwreck



<http://en.unifrance.org/movie/29576/king-guillaume#photo-36606>

Guillaume and Magali are given the ancestral sword



Magali playing in the brass band but not paying much attention to the band



www.quizz.biz

*Will Guillaume and Magali become actual king and queen
of "Guerreland"?*