

**BOULE & BILL**  
**BILLY AND BUDDY**

French with English subtitles



Directed by: Alexandre Charlot & Franck Magnier

Genre: Family comedy

Countries of origin: France/ Belgium/ Luxemburg

Runtime: 79 min.

## SYNOPSIS

Adapted from a hugely popular and long-running French comic strip, this traces the adventures of a boy and his dog - a familiar tale, except this time we get to see it all from the dog's point of view. Bill the red cocker spaniel is languishing in the pound when a red-headed boy appears - they're fated to be together. Set in 1976, this quaint period comedy aims to please all the family, but emphasizes the bond between children and their pets, tapping into the notion that they truly understand each other while the grown-ups are often oblivious.

<http://www.nationalyouthfilmfestival.org/event/watershed-arts-trust7>

## REVIEWS

*Boule et Bill (the film), like its comic strip, is not dynamite but we like its freshness and its real childhood scent... With that 70s retro feel, that cozy setting (...), some funny scenes with Caroline the turtle and the animals talking to each other, this adaptation only aims at pleasing children and their families. Other reviewers may be critical of it, this film fulfills the term of its contract that is to entertain us and make us forget modern life hassles. To be seen with lightness in your eyes and childhood in your heart!*

Boule et Bill, comme la BD, n'est pas explosive mais on aime sa fraîcheur et son vrai parfum d'enfance... L'ambiance rétro de 1976, le décor feutré (...), des scènes marrantes avec Caroline la tortue et des dialogues entre animaux, cette adaptation n'a d'autre prétention que de plaire aux enfants et aux familles. Les autres critiques peuvent être dures à son égard, ce film remplit facilement son contrat de nous divertir et nous faire oublier les tracas de la vie moderne. . À voir d'un œil léger et un cœur d'enfant!

<http://www.cinemaniac.net/2013/08/critique-%E2%80%A2-cinema-boule-bill/>

## DETAILS

### ◆ LANGUAGE

As the film is oriented towards children and families, the language tries to stay neutral with the use of infrequent expletives like “shit” or mild profanity like “damn” for “damn dog”, an excessive way of translating “saleté de chien”.

If delving into some deeper aspects the film, the language expresses the condition of women in 1976 society opposing men like Papa Boule who has a “real” job and Maman Boule who only teaches music to children. Maman Boule also gets to look after the dog because she is not the real breadwinner.

Maman Boule holds a speech on women's rights and equality, which brings a balance between men and women in the 1976 society when the film takes place

### ◆ VIOLENCE

There are a lot of chases after the dog as Bill the cocker spaniel is playful and rambunctious especially when it does not want to be bathed. There are some damages to the house as it decides to hang from the ceiling light.

Boule's imagination is filled with “Indians and cowboys” stories: he pictures his father in a first nation costume dancing around a pole where Bill is tied up; another time Boule uses his fingers as a gun and pretends to fire it.

In a fun play with Bill, Caroline the turtle whirls around the living room and ends up in the garbage chute. As she descends and still has fun, a small ball of fire is seen.

#### ◆ **NUDITY**

None

#### ◆ **SEXUAL ACTIVITY**

Maman Boule and Papa Boule briefly kiss on the mouth. As Caroline the turtle is madly in love with Bill, she uses expressions like “I feel dizzy” to allude to the sensations Bill stirs up. The background songs and music enhance Caroline’s feelings by adding a suave note to the relationship.

#### ◆ **PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT**

The film describes the adventures of a child and his pet embracing the fondness of their relationship. And to spice them up with suspense, Boule and Bill together overcome some dangers (most of them listed not in order of occurrence)

- Bill is made to walk and run beside the car as his smell disturbs Papa Boule
- Papa Boule leaves Bill behind so that he gets lost which forces the pet to run after the car in order to catch up
- Caroline almost gets run over. She reminds Papa Boule that priority is to the right.
- Caroline the turtle ends up in the garbage chute and in the dump downstairs: she needs to be rescued and she is.
- In order to rescue Bill from the garbage dump, the father foolishly speeds up against other more powerful cars and endangers his family.
- Bill also ends up in a garbage pick-up truck en route to the incinerator perhaps. After a crazy chase after the truck, the dog too gets to be saved.
- Boule and Bill in their attempt to run away find themselves locked up in the basement of the building. They scream and bang on the door to be heard and found.
- Boule inadvertently lights up a fire with matches that could have been fatal to the apartment building and its residents.
- When Bill thinks he has been abandoned, he decides to go to the next door neighbor through the balcony: he walks on a tight ledge that makes him and the viewers dizzy
- The neighbor Bill encounters is a comic character in the film as he is portrayed as selfish and annoying by repeating the same litanies about his depression, his intolerance of noise. He totally ignores the needs of the Boule family.

In conclusion, the film succeeds in rendering a charming, touching picture of the tenderness and care between animals and humans. In spite of the dangers that are all conquered, the film remains oriented towards a young audience.

PICTURE GALLERY FROM THE FILM



Bill the cocker spaniel





The Boule family with Bill



Boule is taking Bill to school to give a day off to his mom



Boule on his way to school with Bill



Bill enjoying the attention of boule's school friends