

Document Citation

Title	The bride's surprise
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Oxford Films</i>
Date	
Type	exhibitor manual
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Voyage - surprise (The bride's surprise), Prévert, Pierre, 1946

Rave Notices!

"PROBABLY THE WACKIEST COMEDY EVER SCREENED!"
—L. A. TIMES

"PURE JOY!"
—S. F. NEWS
"HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED—
THOROUGHLY ENJOYABLE!"
—TIME MAGAZINE

"THE BRIDE'S

SURPRISE"

("VOYAGE SURPRISE")

Excellent Satire in New French Film at Esquire

By LLOYD L. SLOAN
Somehow or other, French satire—when it really gets started and is well handled—seems to be the most biting of all satire.

And it is extremely well handled in a picture called "The Bride's Surprise" which began screening last night at the Esquire Theater, along with another Gallic screenplay, "Fric Frac."

"The Bride's Surprise," which title was probably placed on the film for American consumption, since there is little about a newly married woman being terribly shocked, should be called "Surprise Trip" or possibly just "Surprise."

It follows no orthodox manner of presentation, wandering about in its story as much as the people in the script wander about the countryside, but it manages to lampoon everything from movie villains to governments in exile. It even lampoons lampooning, for some of its most satiric situations have already been satirized on the screen. Yet the film goes right ahead, without rhyme or reason, picking up situations and taking them apart.

It's all done with a high degree of hilarity, and even the strong satire is not of the serious kind, humor being its main point.

The film features a typically, but even more so than usual,

French cast made up of assorted characters, Jacques Henri Duval, Maurice Baquet, Sinoel, Vitsoris, Etienne Decroux, Max Revol, Charles Lavielle, and Rene Bourbon, among them.

Pierre Prevert's direction wrings everything possible out of the story.

Hollywood CITIZEN-NEWS

Look Movie Guide

The films reviewed below are recommended as the best current releases



VOYAGE SURPRISE

This French film mixes governments-in-exile, jewel thieves, and a group of touring vacationists in a zany plot, against lovely French scenery. Reminiscent of Mack Sennett, action is fast, and the gags are frequent. (Duke-Int.)

RATED No. 1
by TIME!

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

New Foreign Films

Most foreign films, even the British crop, do not get wide distribution in the U.S.; but there is a current flood tide of good ones. Some of the best, roughly in order of merit:

Voyage Surprise (French). Writer Jacques Prevert (*Children of Paradise*) and Director Pierre, his brother, following René Clair, use their highly sophisticated talents on the style perfected in the old Mack Sennett and Chaplin comedies. The story: a slap-happy cross-country French tour, complicated by saboteurs, stolen crown jewels, and burlesque pursuers. The picture has an air of reckless and generally happy improvisation. It fails to develop and pay off its comic points brilliantly enough, but it is thoroughly enjoyable.

Jenny Lamour (French). Winner of the Grand Award at the Festival

Daily News
LOS ANGELES

THE SAN FRANCISCO NEWS

French Comedies Delightful

The French can be fey when they want to, as illustrated at the Larkin Theater in two delicious and delicious comedies: "Fric-frac" and "The Bride's Surprise."

The more important of the two is "Fric-frac" which is so potent a film work that there are times when you can as easily cry as laugh at Fernandel, Michel Simon and Arletty.

Actually, "Fric-frac" is a study in semantics. There is a battle between underworld argot and high French, with Simon as a "dead-beat" and Arletty as a "fille publique," while Fernandel is a jeweler of pedantic speech who becomes enamoured of Arletty and her strange companions.

The translators have done a monumental job in translating French ganster slang into American street dialect. And while it may seem a little too lusty and vulgar at times, it cannot be considered risqué.

Fernandel turns in a magnificent characterization. He is a great artist when he is given a role worthy of development, Michel Simon, too, does outstanding work. Arletty carries on in her apparent specialty, and does it alluringly.

There are many rare scenes in "Fric-frac." But the high spot, to my mind, is the drunken scene between Fernandel and Michel. This is such a basic thing it is extremely pathetic as well as being very funny. It is definitely art.

The second picture "The Bride's Surprise," (It really should be "Voyage Surprise") turns out to be an enchanting fairy tale. It employs farce, slapstick, corns and

even surrealism of a sort to carry on the "surprise" plot.

The audience, like the voyagers, never know what is coming next. And the result is so diverting that you'll be sorry when it stops.

From the skulking villain in moustachios, cape and motorcycle, to the bride in full veil sitting in a tree top, it is pure joy.

We recommend both pictures to discriminating audiences.

—EMILIA HODEL

Los Angeles Times

'Bride's Surprise' French Slapstick

"The Bride's Surprise" is probably the wackiest comedy ever screened. It's a sort of satire on comedy, indeed a satire on satire at moments. It involves a lot of people who take what is announced by its sponsor as "a surprise voyage," totally without itinerary, in an antiquated bus; a couple of dumb detectives on the trail of stolen jewels of a dispossessed queen, and a melodramatic sleuth in slouch hat and cape. The bride and groom enter the picture via a caterer's wagon, in which they are traveling, which stops to feed the bus load of people.

Comic Adventures

The old conductor of the voyage has unwittingly taken aboard a huge box which he thinks contains tools, but which actually holds the lost jewels. The travelers meet with comic adventure many of which kid various movie patterns.

Cast includes Pierre Pieral midget actor, who plays the dispossessed queen and is very funny; Sinoel, Cecelia Prodi as the bride, Max Revol as the picturesque detective, and others.

G. K.

CAST AND CREDITS

"THE BRIDE'S SURPRISE" (Duke International)

Produced by Cooperative Generale due Cinema Francais.

ProducerRoland Tual
DirectorPierre Prevert
Screenplay.....Claude Accursi, Jaques and Pierre Prevert.

PhotographyPaul Paviot
MusicJoseph Kosma
English titles.....Herman Weinberg

Cast: Jacques Henri Duval, Maurice Baquet, Sinoel, Vitsoris, Etienne Decroux, Max Revol, Charles Lavielle, Rene Bourbon, Martine Carol, Annette Poivre, Fernand Rene, Orbal, Lucien Raimbourg, Jeanne Dussole, Christian Simon, Therese Dorny, Caccia, Cecilia Broldi, Robert Lombard, Peres, Claire Gerard, Nico Dakis, Pierre Pieral.

(Running time—80 minutes)

Released By
OXFORD FILMS INC.
1819 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

French Films Good Comedy

By Earl H. Donovan

THERE IS NOTHING half way about either of the French comedies that are currently playing the double bill at the Esquire Theater.

If you could imagine a take-off on "You Can't Take It With You," starring Olson and Johnson and the Marx Brothers, you might get an idea of the madness of "The Bride's Surprise."

The American title is as incongruous as everything else in the film. The bride—a very minor character—is more startling than surprised. She is first seen, in her formal wedding dress, in the top of a tree. She and the groom had run off to the country in the caterer's truck, because she did not want to go to their reception.

Special targets for this wild satire are the tourist business and revolutions. The goings-on get into full swing when a collection of zany tourists take off on a "Voyage Surprise"—a tour without itinerary or established fare. Their vehicle is an open circus truck, appointed with period furniture.

High point of the insanity has the tourists winning a battle against the despotic Grand Duchess of Stromboli in exile. Their previous misadventures are so crazy that they are not at all surprised by their coup d'etat against the comic-opera country.

Direction, script and acting are well adapted to the fantastic comedy.

'Fric-Frac' and 'The Bride's Surprise'

By FRANK ENG

When the French decide to go slapstick, they apparently leave no gag unturned in the effort. At least that is the inescapable impression "The Bride's Surprise" (a none too apt, if titillating, title) makes.

Directed by Pierre Prevert with a blithe understanding of camera technique, the script was co-authored by Claude Accursi and the Prevert brothers, Jacques and director Pierre.

Accepted on its own uninhibited terms, this, crazy film about a mad old man who starts a "surprise" tour, sans itinerary, in direct competition to a bigtime tourist bureau, is good for some genuine belly-laughs. And it never bogs down, one quixotic adventure following a mad one.

Running day-and-date and neck-and-neck with that plot is a subplot involving "Republicans" (radicals to you) and the "exiled royalty" of Strombolia, with a mock battle finale in the exiled Grand Duchess' palace that should take its place in screen history as one of the craziest.

As far as the "tour" part of the plot is concerned, we would say the authors were satirizing the hyper-efficiency of latter-day "snivellization" in favor of a sort of Rousseauian "laissez faire."

The Strombolia gimmick is obviously a two-edged sword cutting both ways, right and left, and not omitting the stupidities of an organized gendarmerie.

There are no stars or starring parts, but everyone involved gives just the right performance under Prevert's spirited and antic direction.

Such individual sequences as those involving the weird "hotel" rooms of Mme. Marguerite and the palace battle royal are of high imaginative order, reminiscent of Cocteau.

THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

"The Bride's Surprise" is a French version of what might result if Abbott and Costello, the Marx Brothers and Olsen and Johnson got together and made a movie.