

Georges Poujouly

Titles: 16 Sources: 2 Stills: 5

Born: Garches, Seine-et-Oise, France; January 20th 1940



Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion entry:

"French boy actor of the early fifties."

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"The memorable creator of "Michel", farmboy protector and slave of the little war-orphaned Parisienne Brigitte Fossey in "**JEUX INTERDITS**", was discovered by the film's director, René Clément, at a children's holiday camp in the Yonne. Soon after his first film his unmarried mother left her factory job and spent all his earnings.

In "**JEUX INTERDITS**", Michel's first service to Paulette is to help her bury her dead puppy, which has been machine-gunned from the air, together with her parents, among the fugitives on the crowded highroad from Paris. Burials of further creatures (birds, mice, even an earthworm) take place in a mounting ecstasy of sublimated mourning: a barn is transformed into a grotto of funereal splendour, aided largely by crosses pilfered from the village churchyard. The outcome is inevitable and, in its authentically childish way, tragic.

Poujouly's muddy Michel is a touching, sometimes grumpy cavalier to Fossey's

capricious Paulette. Two high-points of his performance, though, are solos: his recital of the Lord's Prayer in a furious temper, and his final heartbroken destruction of the fantastic cemetery in the mill.

His defiant little face was seen powerfully again the following year in "**NOUS SOMMES TOUS DES ASSASSINS**" and several other films. (In his more genial moments he reminded one faintly of a small snub-nosed Jean-Pierre Aumont.) On disc he partnered Gérard Philipe in "*Le Petit Prince*". Later, in his teens, he had leading parts in Italian films.

In the mid-Fifties Poujouly was the original choice to play the boy in "**THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA**", but by the time it was ready to shoot he was too old, and the Mexican Felipe Pazos (born November 22nd 1944) took his place.

Poujouly didn't lack work, though: in "**ET DIEU CRÉA LA FEMME**" (56, with Brigitte Bardot), "**LES OEUF DE L'AUTRUCHE**" (57), a lead in "**L'ASCENSEUR POUR L'ÉCHAFAUD**" (57, Louis Malle's first feature), "**GUINGETTE**" (58), "**PÊCHEUR D'ISLANDE**" (59), "**UNE FILLE POUR L'ÉTÉ**" (59, Fr/It), "**VACANCES EN ENFER**" (60), "**UNE GROSSE TÊTE**" (61, another lead) and "**LE VICE ET LE VERTU**" (62).

The the parts thinned out, and apart from "**PARIS BRÛLE-T-IL?**" (66), "**HELLE**" (71) and "**BIRIBI**" (71) not much more was seen of this admirable lad in the cinema. He became a floor manager for Fox, and also did dubbing work – providing, for instance, the voice of Dustin Hoffman in "**MARATHON MAN**".

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
deb 51	11	JEUX INTERDITS ["Forbidden Games"]	as Michel with <i>Brigitte Fossey</i>
52	12	CHEVALIERS DE FRANCE ["Knights of France"]	
52		HOLD-UP EN MUSIQUE ["Musical Hold-Up"]	
52		LA JEUNE FOLLE ["The Young Madwoman"]	with <i>Christian Fourcade, Yves-Marie Maurin</i>
52		NOUS SOMMES TOUS DES ASSASSINS ["We are all Killers"]	
52		QUITTE OU DOUBLE ["Double or Quits"]	
52		SON DERNIER NOEL ["His Last Christmas"]	
53	13	GANGSTERS EN JUPONS ["Gangsters in Petticoats"]	
54	14	LES DIABOLIQUES ["The Fiends"]	with <i>Yves-Marie Maurin, Jimmy Urbain, Jean-Pierre Bonnefous</i>
54		DIX-HUIT HEURES D'ESCALE ["Eighteen-Hour Stopover"]	
54		IL TESORA DEL BENGALA ["The Treasure of Bengal"]	Italy
55	15	LES ASSASSINS DU DIMANCHE ["Sunday Killers"]	with <i>Jacques Moullieres</i>
55		IL CORTILE ["The Yard"]	Italy
55		IL PICCOLO VETRAIO ["The Glazier's Boy"]	Italy
55		SI TOUS LES GARS DU MONDE ["If All the Boys in the World.."]	
56	16	ET DIEU CRÉA LA FEMME ["And God Created Woman"]	
57	17	LES OEUFs DE L'AUTRUCHE ASCENSEUR POUR L'ÉCHAFAUD	in central role
57		["Lift to the Scaffold"]	
58	18	GUINGETTE	
59	19	PÊCHEUR D'ISLANDE	
59		UNE FILLE POUR L'ÉTÉ ["A Girl for Summer"]	
60	20	VACANCES EN ENFER	
61	21	UNE GROSSE TÊTE ["A Big Head"]	in central role