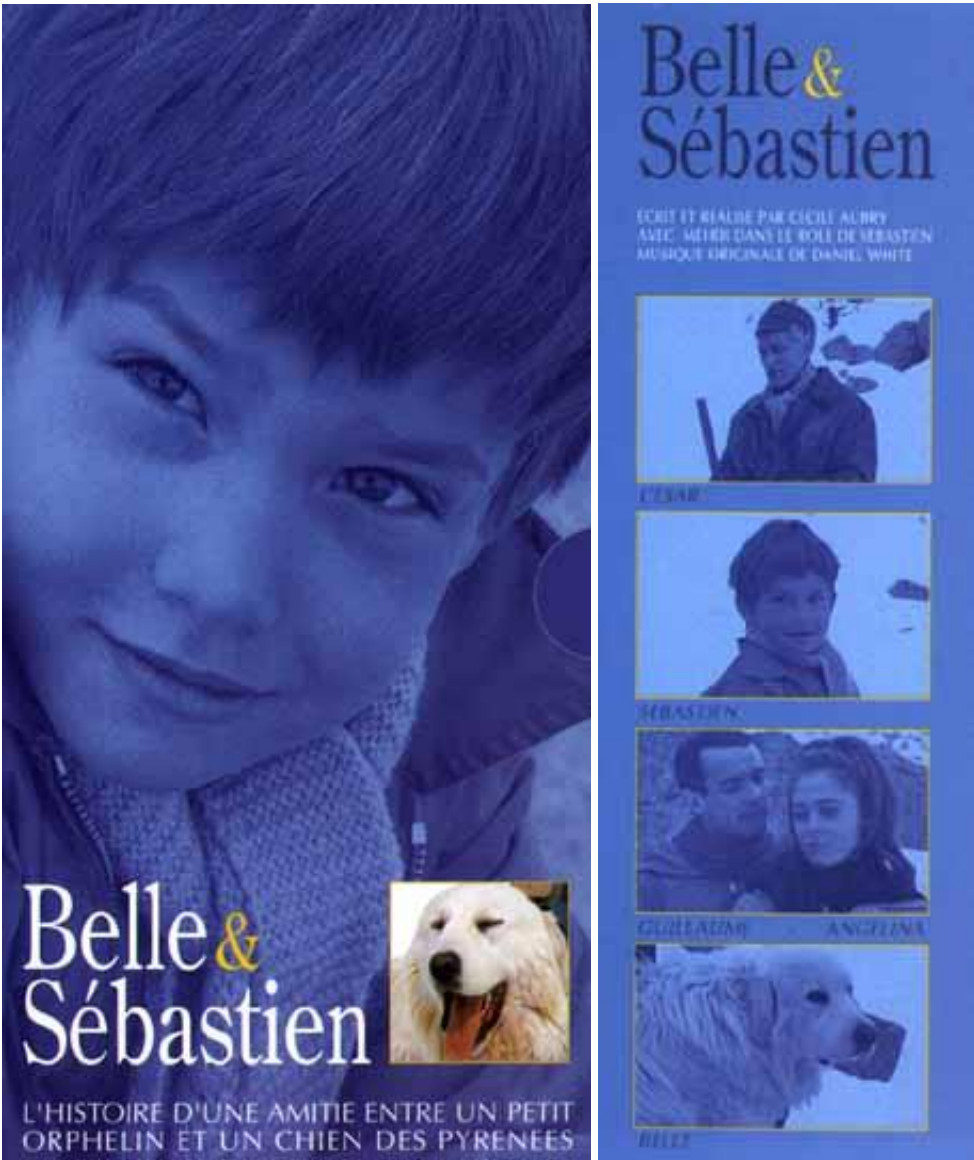


K graphic

Belle et Sébastien

("Belle and Sebastien")
France TV series : 1965 : dir. Cecile Aubrey : : ? x ? min
prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Mehdi El Glaoui](#)
Jean-Pierre Andréani; Paul Barge; Edmond Beauchamp; Dominique Blondeau; Albert Dagnant; Jacqueline Danno;
Hélène Dieudonné; Claude Giraud; Harry-Max; Henri-Jacques Huet; Louise Marleau; Pierre Massimi; Paloma Matta;
Maurice Poli; Charles Vanel

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	∞	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
6007	3	3	5	689	3	-	-	-	-	No	c 1967



One of the most charming children's series to arrive from French TV in the early sixties – notwithstanding the horrors of the English children's TV dubbing studio – it owed its popularity in no small degree to the charms of "Mehdi" as Sebastien, a sort of male "HEIDI". It was "Skippy" or "Flipper" with snowboots on, but the Alpine scenery looked good even in black & white.

Source: CVMC website



Mehdi El Glaoui, with his rakish eyebrows and indulgent smirk, was not to be upstaged by an abominable mountain dog the size of a Sherman tank.. Source: The Moving Picture Boy

CVMC video retail/rental website review:

"A boy (Mehdi El Glaoui) of about nine years has tons of fun and many adventures with his pooch.

Language: French

NOTE: This movie is in French with NO ENGLISH SUBTITLES OR DUBBING."

Incidental note from **Into the Box of Delights** – a **History of Children's Television**:

"[in a 1969 report by Monica Sims, BBC's Head of Children's TV Programmes, to the BBC's General Advisory Council] ...She also said that good, expensive material was bought from Europe and dubbed – unusually for British television which, on the whole, resists the use of dubbing in adult programmes. But she also made the point that the department itself was unable to make programmes of the quality of the French live-action drama *Belle and Sebastian* and emphasises that BBC

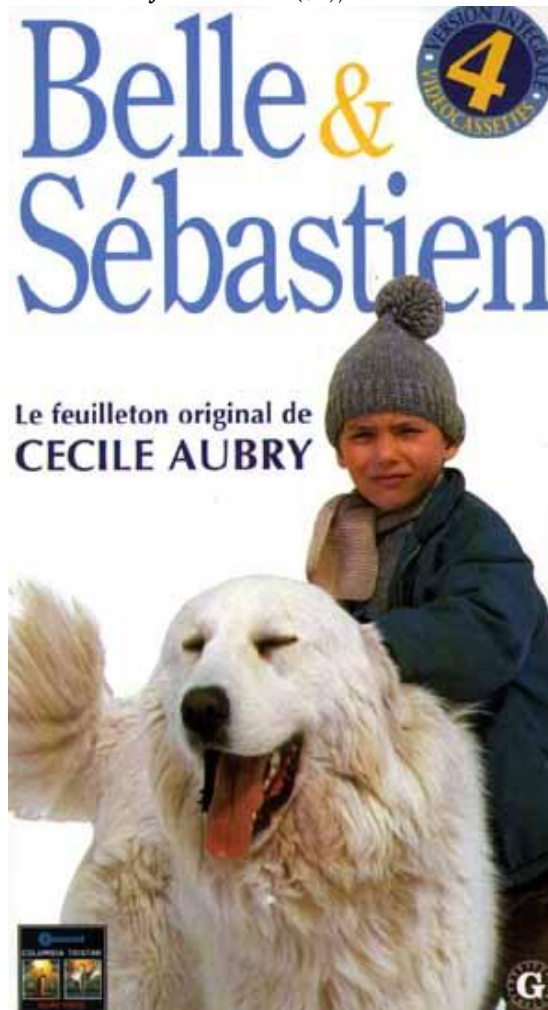
children's programmes were facing strong competition from the commercial companies."

The Moving Picture Boy entry on "Mehdi":

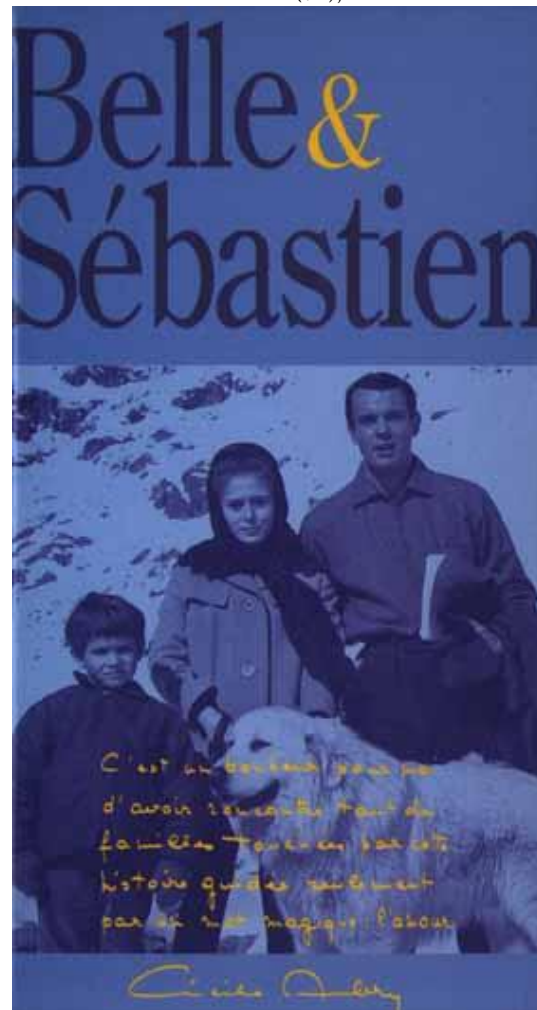
"Mehdi, although he acted almost exclusively for TV, was such a popular child actor that he can't be omitted. He was also the grandson of a Pasha of Marrakesh. In 1954, the petite starlet Cécile Aubry had secretly married Prince Si Brahim, and Mehdi was born at the Prince's country house, the Blue Mill, some 25 miles from Paris.

By the age of four the engaging child and his eager, earnest expressions – he was slightly like a male Elisabeth Bergner – caught the eye of some of his mother's show business acquaintances, and the rest was French TV history. Mehdi was best known in the three "**Sébastien**" series, which opened with an adventure in which the tiny boy was partnered by a huge dog, and ended with a maritime mystery. Most of his work was to be directed by Cécile Aubry herself.

In his mid-teens Mehdi returned to the TV screen as “Le Jeune Fabre” (72), in a celebration



of the great zoologist. He was then in “Un Amour de Pluie” (73), the TV serial



Source: CVMC website

“Jérôme et Isabelle” (74), “Catherine et Cie” (Fr/It 75), and another TV serial, “Kick”. He also worked for Claude Goretta on the technical side of “LES CHEMINS DE L’EXIL”.

[no listing in “The Golden Age of Children’s Television”, “Halliwell’s Television Companion”, “History of Television”, “How Sweet It Was” or “Television’s Greatest Hits”]

No further information currently available. Having not seen this series since I was myself 12, a detailed commentary is not possible, but it’s significant that the BBC’s own Head of Children’s Programming recognised the superiority of contemporary French productions like this. To my knowledge, the subsequent serials “[Sébastien Parmi les Hommes](#)” (67) and “[Sébastien et la Mary-Morgane](#)” (69) were not bought for broadcast by the BBC. All three series are currently available on video through CVMC’s website, though as usual without dubbing or subtitles. [Mehdi el Glaoui](#) was 9, but certainly looked younger. He had a role four years previously in “LA MERVEILLEUSE HISTOIRE DE POLY”, his only known film appearance.

See subject index under [ALL IN THE FAMILY](#), DOGS, GRANDPARENTS, [ORPHANS / ADOPTION](#) and TV SERIES.

