POUR UN GARÇON

de Chris & Paul WEITZ

FICHE TECHNIQUE
Titre original : About a Boy
Pays : USA / GB
Durée (running time) : 1h45
Année : 2001
Genre : Comédie
Scénario (screenwriter) : Peter HEDGES, Chris & Paul WEITZ adapted from the novel *About a Boy* by Nick HORNBY, first published in 1998
Directeur de la photographie : Remi ADEFARASIN
Décors : Jim CLAY
Costumes : Joanna JOHNSTON
Musique : Damon GOUGH
Coproduction : Universal Pictures / Tribeca Productions / Working Title
Distribution : Mars Distribution
Interprètes (cast) : Hugh GRANT (Will Freeman), Toni COLLETTE (Fiona), Rachel WEISZ (Rachel), Nicholas HOULT (Marcus), Victoria SMURFIT (Suzie), Sharon SMALL (Christine)
Sortie : 12 novembre 2002

SYNOPSIS

Will is thirty-six but acts like a teenager. He reads the right magazines, goes to the right club and knows which trainers to wear. He has also discovered a great way to score with women – at single parents' groups, full of available mothers, all waiting for Mr Nice. That's where he meets Marcus, the oldest twelve-year-old in the world. Marcus is a bit strange: he listens to Mozart, looks after his mum and he has never owned a pair of trainers. Perhaps if Will can teach Marcus how to be a kid, Marcus can help Will grow up…
Le play-boy londonien Will séduit les jeunes mères célibataires en leur faisant croire qu'il élève seul un gamin de deux ans. Un jour, une de ses conquêtes lui présente Marcus, le fils d'une amie suicidaire. Contre toute attente, Will s'attache au gamin.

AUTOUR DU FILM

About Nick Hornby

Nick Hornby was born in 1957. He's the author of *Fever Pitch* and of three novels: *High Fidelity*, *About a Boy* and *How to be Good*. All four books have been international best sellers and all are available in Penguin. He has also edited two anthologies, *My Favourite Year* and *Speaking with the Angel*.
In 1999 he was awarded the E. M. Forster Award by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He lives and works in Highbury, north London.

PISTES PÉDAGOGIQUES

Some themes:

- New families vs traditional families
- Growing up
- Identity
- Bullying
- Love and friendship

Main characters:

- Will (Hugh Grant)

Feckless, footloose and fancy-free, Will leads a life of leisure, watching Countdown and seeking romance with single mothers.

- Marcus (Nicholas Hoult)

Not the most normal of 12-year-olds. He divides his time between getting hassled at school, listening to Joni Mitchell and worrying about his suicidal mum Fiona.

- Fiona (Toni Collette)

When not cooking rock-like organic leaves or singing with her eyes shut, she spends a lot of time upset.

- Rachel (Rachel Weisz)

Smart, beautiful and sophisticated, she's Will's ideal woman despite having a scarily demented 12-year-old son.

- Suzie (Victoria Smurfit)

Independent, attractive single mother. Just Will's type in fact until she finds out he lied about having a son.

Classroom work:

- Extract 1 (pages 1 and 2)
  - find as much information as possible about each character and his situation.
  - who says what?
  - 'd = had or would?
  - lines 34 to 37: imagine Marcus's requests using 'want'

- Extract 2 (pages 96 to 99)
  - Part 1: from l.1 to l.28
    - Is Will very pleased with Marcus's visit?
    - Prove Will's well-off.
    - Show that Will lives alone (2 quotes).
    - What can we deduce about his status?

  - Part 2: from l.29 to l.60
    - What does Will do for a living?
    - L.59/60: What does 'it' refer to?
    - Explain Marcus's vision of school.
    - Give an extended definition of a school sort of person.

  - Part 3: from l.61 to the end
    - Collect data about Marcus.
    - What sort of boy is he? Choose 3 adjectives in the list: assertive; self-conscious; proud; self-confident; introverted; shy; boisterous.
    - What's wrong with him at school?
    - What do the others criticize him for?

BIBLIOGRAPHIE

Teaching materials:

- *Annales Brevet Vuibert*, Sujet 25, 2002.
- Poster 'Bullying', page 43, XL 2nde.
- Selected extracts from the novel (Penguin Fiction, 2002).
- www.about-a-boy.com