

**AU REVOIR LES ENFANTS**  
**Written and directed by Louis Malle**

France, 1987, 105 mins, Cert 12A

Gaspard Manesse, Raphaël Fejtö, Philippe Morier-Genoud, François Négret

*"A movie about childhood, friendship, betrayal, and how to understand a confused world"*

Philip French



Opening on 30 January 2015  
at BFI Southbank, IFI Dublin and selected cinemas UK-wide

One of the great films about the Second World War and Nazi-occupied France, Louis Malle's semi-autobiographical, multi-award-winning worldwide hit will be re-released by the BFI in cinemas UK-wide next year on 30 January. A special preview marking Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January) will take place at BFI Southbank.

*Au revoir les enfants* is such an intensely personal film that the director waited for many years until he felt ready to make it. After working in America and making such films as *Pretty Baby* and *Atlantic City*, Malle returned to France to write a screenplay based on the real events that took place at the school he attended as a young boy during the war.

The story is set in January 1944 at an exclusive Catholic boys boarding school near Fontainebleau. Twelve-year-old Julien (Gaspard Manesse), a bright, popular pupil at the school, is asked by headmaster Père Jean to look after a new boy, the shy, sensitive Jean Bonnet (Raphaël Fejtö). As the boys slowly become friends, finding a shared love of reading and music, Julien discovers that Jean is Jewish and that he is being kept hidden from the Nazis by the priests of the school under an assumed name.

Within an exceptionally moving, yet deliberately unsentimental central story, Malle blends fact with fiction to create notable characters such as Julien's glamorous mother and Joseph, the much-taunted kitchen helper who runs a black market with the boys.

*Au revoir les enfants* was a worldwide box-office triumph, winning critical acclaim and numerous awards, including Golden Lion for Best Film at the 1987 Venice Film Festival, seven French Césars and a BAFTA. It was also nominated for two Academy Awards.

Louis Malle confessed that the events that inspired *Au revoir les enfants* had always haunted him, influencing the rest of his life. With its quiet simplicity and heart-rending final scenes, this film is perhaps the best-known and most admired of his remarkable career.

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**Notes to editors**

- A preview of *Au revoir les enfants* will take place on Holocaust Memorial Day, Tuesday 27 January at 18:20 at BFI Southbank (NFT1), introduced by film writer and historian Philip Kemp.

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