

FRENCH FILM

Open to all students (past, present and future at the Christchurch Library, High Street, Christchurch, BH23 1AB.
Contact Jacques Halé, 01202 432752.

The programme for 2018 is as follows:

22nd mars 2018 Être et avoir
21st juin 2018 Bienvenue chez les Ch'ti

Être et avoir (22nd March 2018)

In French with English subtitles. Released in 2003, in French with English subtitles.

Duration: 100 minutes.

A fly-on-the-wall documentary from Nicolas Philibert, about a single-class French village school, which is situated in a remote Auvergne farming community. The dozen-or-so pupils - boys and girls whose ages range from four to ten - are all taught by the same remarkably dedicated and caring teacher, Georges Lopez, himself now approaching retirement.

Lopez regards it as his duty to try and prepare his charges for the adult world beyond the cosy classroom. Thus they learn how to get along peacefully with one another - verbal and physical disputes are settled by reasoned discussion, not through physical chastisement - and they are encouraged to express their fears and worries.

The director's patient approach pays real dividends, in the way he observes the kids (who seem genuinely un-selfconscious about the presence of the camera) at work and at play in such a beneficial environment.

One's left with a certain sense of sadness, though. Not just at Mr Lopez's eventual departure, but that his charges are unlikely to enjoy such personal attention in their secondary school lives. (Edited from [Tom Dawson](#), a BBC critique).



From a comment on the Amazon site:

Être et Avoir will delight primary teachers particularly those who taught in the 1960's. This film celebrates the idea of teaching as a vocation, teachers using their own skills and resources; there are no SATS, no tests, no targets, it is not outcome driven and there is no 'health and safety'. Children and their parents are encouraged to help each other, work together at socialisation and at being part of a small rich community. These children and their teacher enjoy and explore the whole learning experience together at a gentle pace and as it naturally evolves during a school year. The children love their teacher and he loves them and their parents - everyone gains. I wonder if this little school still exists in France - I hope so; sadly it is not replicated in England anymore. I attended a school like this in the 50's and taught in one in the 60's and 70's, I will watch this again and again.