# FANNY'S JOURNEY

## Le Voyage de Fanny

*Original version: French with English subtitles*

**Director**: Lola Doillon
**Release date (Québec)**: December 23, 2016
**Genre**: Adventure, family, drama
**Country of origin**: France, Belgium
**Length**: 100min.

ONTARIO PREMIÈRE

## SYNOPSIS

Based on a true story.
1943. Germany is occupying France. Fanny (13 years old) and her little sisters were sent by their parents to OSE, a foster home for Jewish children.
When the Nazis arrive on Italian territory, members of OSE desperately organize the departure of the children to Switzerland. Fanny and her sisters are among those travelling to the border. These 11 children suddenly left on their own will do the impossible to reach the Swiss border in order to survive.
"Fanny's Journey" is an incredible tale of bravery, strength and survival, a story of a daring young girl who will stop at nothing and fear no one.
https://indiesales.eu/fanny-s-journey

## FILM REVIEWS

**"A handsome, compelling period piece that deftly portrays events through the eyes of its young protagonists."** – Variety

As the kids eventually develop solidarity and the ability to work together, Doillon and co-writer Anne Peyregne can't resist including several over-scored, **Hallmark movie moments** in which the youngsters frisk and play as if they weren't really in the middle of fleeing for their lives. Also wince-worthy is some out-of-the-mouth-of-babes dialogue such as Georgette's naïve question, "Why can't we stop being Jews?" Despite this criticism, the narrative manages to bring **an important period of history alive for the next generation** even as the people who lived it are dying off. And the final moving scenes can't help but provoke comparisons and discussions of what is **now happening to immigrants at European borders.**
(Alissa Simon)
http://variety.com/2016/film/reviews/fannys-journey-review-1201786534/

---

Bristling with **suspense** and moving in equal measures, Fanny's Journey tells the true story of **exceptional bravery and survival** against all odds.
https://www.psychologies.co.uk/2016-uk-international-jewish-film-festival

---

**By keeping the worst events off screen**, Fanny's Journey is accessible for a family audience and is an absorbing, inspiring tale of bravery and determination. **Suitable for ages 8+**. (Justin Johnson)
https://whatson.bfi.org.uk/lff/Online/default.asp?BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::permalink=fannysjourney&BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::co

---

## Hamburg Film Festival (2016)- Won Michel Award for ***Fanny's Journey***

"The film won us over particularly with its interplay of tension and release. The adventurous drama and the combination of image and sound allowed us to put ourselves in the children's shoes. The acting was so compelling that it touched us on an emotional level. Moments of tension, sadness, happiness and fear were brought to life by the film's storyline. It is also worth noting that the film is based on a true story. We would like to congratulate the film team of *Fanny's Journey* for a very moving production."
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt5038372/awards?ref_=tt_awd

---

If it is a touching story the context and historical realities of which would tend to produce a dramatic and weepy film, Lola Doillon's film is on the contrary **sparkling and colored with the hope that shines into the children's eyes.**
If History is not forgotten it is willingly implied in the background …, which enables this feature film to be **accessible to a young audience**. Of course Fanny and her travelling buddies go through war, are afraid of being spotted as Jews and noticeably encounter hanged men in the forest very close to the Swiss border….but they are still children who are maturing, learning about independence, love and complicity… and who are experiencing laughter bursting like a saving grace.
**A gentle and sensitive feature film to be seen with your family and that we would recommend to primary school teachers.**
(Translated from **Julie Cadilac**'s review in
http://www.lagrandeparade.fr/index.php/dompteurs-de-l-image/cinema/674-le-voyage-de-fanny-neuf-enfants-ensemble-contre-l-adversite-dans-la-franc

*Si c'est une histoire émouvante dont le cadre et les réalités historiques auraient tendance à produire un film larmoyant et dramatique, la réalisation de Lola Doillon est au contraire pétillante et colorée de l'espoir qui brille dans les yeux des enfants. Si l'Histoire n'est pas oubliée, elle est volontairement sous-entendue...ce qui permet à ce long-métrage d'être accessible au jeune public. Bien sûr, Fanny et ses compagnons traversent la guerre, ont peur d'être reconnus comme juifs et découvrent notamment des pendus dans une forêt non loin de la frontière suisse. .mais ils n'en sont pas moins des enfants qui grandissent, qui font l'apprentissage de l'indépendance, de l'amour et de la complicité....et connaissent des fous-rires salvateurs.*
*Un long-métrage délicat et sensible à voir en famille et que l'on conseillera également aux enseignants des classes de primaire.*

http://www.unifrance.org/film/40881/le-voyage-de-fanny#&gid=1&pid=5

## DETAILS

### LANGUAGE

The film is seen from the point of view of children who, sometimes, have difficulties expressing themselves in French as Yiddish is their first language. Élie/Étienne, the young leader of the group, refer to the Germans as "Boches" (Krauts)
One of the little girls does not even know the meaning of the word. She says the "Les Moches" (the ugly ones) instead of les "Boches"
Very occasionally the expletive "merde" (shit) is heard.
A couple of times the teen leaders refers to the people who denounced the presence of the Jewish children as "bastards" (salauds)
In the course of their journey, children play. They talk about stinking monkeys, farting horses and animals having "2 zizis" (child language for for "willy").

### VIOLENCE

As a critic remarks "The film is bristling with suspense", as well as psychological tension. Most of the brutal violence of war is left in the background and not seen except for rare instances that are **not** gratuitous. **They fit in the context of war**.
When the Germans barge into the foster home for Jewish children, the soldiers come with their guns. They arrest and seize the director and drag him. The man bears some traces of blood on his forehead. He is shoved in a truck.
His assistant is also arrested and screams his name.
A woman is dragged against her will into a car after she had told the French police that the children are Jewish.
After the children are interrogated by the French police, they are locked up in a classroom. One of the little boys grabs the keys to prevent the "gendarmes" from leaving. One of the policemen points his gun at the head of the little boy who is asking him to pull the trigger. The little boy gives the keys back and the policemen leave.
The group led by Fanny succeeds in escaping but some of the children eat poisonous plants and get sick. Fanny and Victor decide to go through the forest to seek help. On their way, they see the shadows of two hanged persons. The shot is very brief.
Fanny and the children cross the border to Switzerland, but little Rachel stays behind screaming for help. As Fanny rushes to grab her, two German soldiers aim at them and shoot. Fanny and Rachel are safe.

### NUDITY

None

### SEXUAL ACTIVITY

None

## HORROR
None

## PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT
In their flight to safety, the children are facing uncertainty, and fear of being denounced, caught and sent away.
The children weep because they miss their parents. The adults keep disappearing so the children can only count on themselves.
The little ones do not understand why they are being hunted. One girl asks: “Can we stop being Jewish?”

Fanny is brave, plucky and smart. She takes upon herself to save the children. She is the big sister, the friend and the guide in spite of her young age.
The group has developed a dynamic of trust, affection and warmth. They rely on each other especially on Fanny who gets help even when danger is lurking.
The children are very alert. They seize any opportunity to escape. For instance, Fanny understands that the Red Cross is going to feed the children their “last meal” and hand them over to the French police. She does not waste time and finds a way to sneak out the convent with the children.
The group is very resourceful: one child finds a wagon to go to Annemasse; a little boy attempts to get his friends out of the classroom by stealing the keys away from the police.
Fanny asks the farmer if the children can help him so that they can stay at the farm, eat and stay warm.
Beyond the bonding all the children experience, they mature as they become more aware of the danger. They play tricks to stay safe: they climb up the trees so that the policemen can’t find them and the little ones do not cry nor say a word.

http://sbiff.org/fannys-journey/

# PHOTOS OF THE FILM

http://www.allocine.fr/film/fichefilm-241989/photos/detail/?cmediafile=21290222

Mrs. Forman leaves the children at the local station

http://www.giffonifilmfestival.it/en/film-edizione-gff-2016/item/1766-fanny-s-journey.html

The children are ready to catch the train

http://en.unifrance.org/movie/40881/fanny-s-journey#&gid=1&pid=1

Fanny and her two sisters

At the farm with Victor and Fanny

The farmer who sheltered the children for a few days

http://www.allocine.fr/

http://www.giffonifilmfestival.it/en/film-edizione-gff-2016/item/1766-fanny-s-journey.html

The children crossed the border. They are in Switzerland!

http://www.lefigaro.fr/cinema/2016/05/17/03002-20160517ARTFIG00247--le-voyage-de-fanny8230-et-les-autres-films-de-la-semaine.php

The youngest children of the group

www.allocine.com

Victor and Fanny