

# PRETTY CLEVER FILMS



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## MODERN TIMES



## TIFF 13 Review: Attila Marcel (2013)

Posted by Jovana Jankovic September 5, 2013 0 Comment 2266 views

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To be fair, personal taste shouldn't necessarily be a heavy determinant of criticism, but it no doubt plays a part. To help you decide whether you'd like to see Sylvain Chomet's first live-action feature film, *Attila Marcel* (Chomet rose to fame with 2003's *The Triplets of Belleville*), I have one word for you: *Amélie* (Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 2001). Did you like this whimsical, color-saturated tale of a quiet yet adorable French gal getting to know herself while solving a mystery and finding love? If yes, you may perhaps enjoy *Attila Marcel* as well, a film for which the exact same description could be used; simply change "gal" to "fellow."

Our protagonist, Paul (Guillaume Gouix) is a mute twenty-something pianist who was raised since age two by his overbearing twin-dressed aunts, after the inexplicable death of his parents. These deaths, the source of Paul's trauma, are the central MacGuffin of the film, and Paul sets out to find answers by imbibing the magical herbal potions of his irreverent hippie neighbor, Mme Proust (Anne Le Ny) — the character-naming is a little heavy-handed here, since the film opens with a quotation from Marcel Proust about accessing memories. The film is jam-packed with accordion music, tiny French baked goods, tiny French bakeries, and cartoonish hallucinated childhood memories. For a film whose themes and subject matter address some serious issues (childhood trauma, death, domestic abuse, racism, sexuality, art, memory, identity), the viewing experience elicits a shockingly low amount of feeling. Let me say that I quite liked *The Triplets of Belleville*, so perhaps my dislike for *Attila Marcel* is a case of medium-specificity. In any case, I found the film irritating and tiresome; you may find it charming. Who knows?

### Screening Times for Attila Marcel

Friday September 6 Winter Garden Theatre 4:30 PM

Thursday September 12 The Bloor Hot Docs Cinema 12:15 PM

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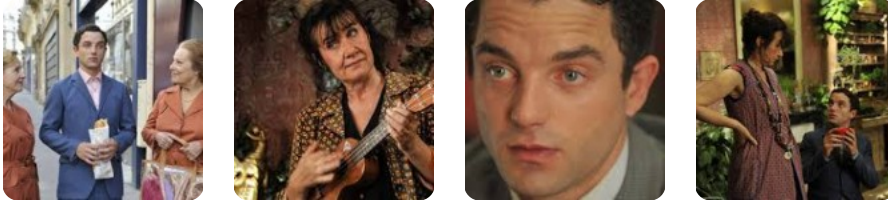
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### A Gallery of Images from Attila Marcel



### Watch the Attila Marcel Trailer



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### About Jovana Jankovic

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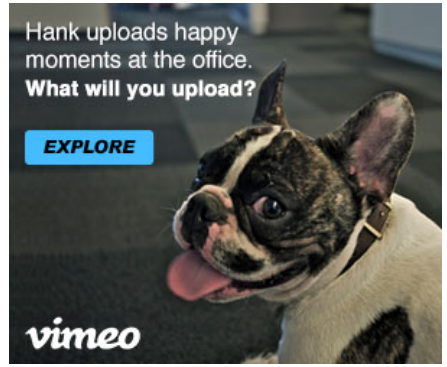
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