



Circus dogs, fair dogs, music hall and street performers; film stars

[Bygone Performing Poodles](#)

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Circus and other performing Poodles today (other than film)

Irina Markova and her performing dogs. Irina Markova and her seven performing Poodles (all sizes) perform in the 2007-8 season with The Big Apple Circus (see [Welcome to the Big Apple Circus](#)). As of 13 January 2008, you can admire this act on You Tube ([Conan-JAN8](#)) [Irina Markova and her performing dogs](#).

"The Clowning Canines of Paul Castano" Cookie and Ruiliz, two brilliantly successful--very funny!--and happy!--small, white Poodles, worked with the clown Paul Castano, a graduate of the Columbian Circus School, in the Hometown Edition of Ringling Bros., & Barnum & Bailey circus, Hamilton, Ontario, 21 November 2004. See *Special Collector's Edition* [programme], Ringling Bros., & Barnum & Bailey Hometown Edition, pp. 21-22 for photographs and a description of Castano and his dogs.

[Posnas Pudel Parade](http://posnas-pudel.com/). (<http://posnas-pudel.com/>) Jani and Joshchi Posna of Berlin, Germany have (August 2004) a troupe of trained Poodles which they present



thus: "Our nine young, playful poodles would like to enchant you with their prowess and beauty in a fast-moving, lighthearted show.

"Now in its second generation, the Posna family guarantees the highest quality of training and presentation.

"Everything that Joschi Posna has learnt in the course of his life as an artiste, which since his early childhood has taken him all over the world, is brilliantly combined here with the fresh ideas of young Jana Posna, a graduate of the Potsdam-Babelsberg College of Film and Television.

"Posna's Poodles are just as much at home in the circus ring or amusement park as on the variety stage, in the theatre, at gala shows and on camera. Wherever they appear they make a great impression with their variety of sizes and colours and their extraordinarily beautiful coiffures. Their instinct for play enables them to perform stunning and comical tricks. Our show lasts for between 10 and 20 minutes, as required. We need a stage area of at least 6 by 4 metres.

"It goes without saying that we work in accordance with the German animal welfare laws. But more than that, we love our dogs and live with them and for them every single day."

The Grimaldis, the famous British clowns Kenneth and Audrey Austin, were killed in a car crash in Florida aged 87 and 81 respectively (obituary, *National [Canadian] Post*, Friday, July 16, 1999, p. A15, credited to *The Daily Telegraph*). In the late 1960s, they developed a stronger circus act "with a clever Poodle named 'Twinkle,' the success of which allowed them to continue performing even as octogenarians." They were survived by their toy Poodle, Lucky, who was rescued "from the ensuing conflagration only lightly singed."

That diminutive Montrealer, [\[click forward to images to find\] Grisou](#), is *caniche savant* of clown/magician Danzy of Les Productions Imagination (founded in 1994 by Danys Hamel; tel.: 514-895-MAGI; e-mail: magi@cam.org).

Dominique Davis, in her article "Circus Dogs" (*American Kennel Club Gazette*, November 1992, pp. 62-6) describes joyful Poodles performing in "the Greatest Show on Earth" (Ringling Brothers, and Barnum & Bailey Circus) in April 1992. Erik Adams, Poodle-troup trainer (and performer, with his wife and daughter) "is a third-generation circus man." His grandfather trained bears, and his father worked with bears, chimps, and dogs. Erik specialized in dogs; in 1992, had been working with Poodles for 10 years--20 minutes a day, twice a day; his act involved seven Poodles, two Standards and five Toys, ranging in age from two-and-one-half to eight years; all male. "I get my dogs from breeders," Erik explained, "when they're about one year old....They have to have nice conformation to do the work, and they *have* to look at me while I'm talking." Photos include one of Erik Adams balancing a Toy Poodle on a tall platform on his head (p. 63); Jessica Adams, Erik's daughter, riding along behind while a white SP pedals a tricycle (p. 64); and (also p. 64) Bones, Toy Poodle ("one of the best dogs I've ever had"), doing the (front; single) pawstand on Erik Adams' right palm.

The author concludes: "...animal rights groups are targeting circuses...as places where animals are subjected to inhumane treatment for the sole purpose of providing entertainment to people....Watching Bones perch precariously on Erik's hand while he practically holds the tiny dog there with his eyes and his voice, both of them tuned into each other's signals, it's easy to see that the dog wouldn't--couldn't--be there if it didn't want to be. No tricks. No magic. Corny and conventional as it sounds, it's pure puppy love. On both sides. No wonder it works, and that it makes so many children of all ages feel they're watching the Greatest Show on Earth."

The Moscow Circus contains an all-female Poodle act for which two varieties are bred and trained by "the Kolpensky family of dog trainers." When this circus toured Australia in 1994, quarantine regulations precluded bringing the dog, so clubs were asked to find suitable candidates for training. "Breeders answered the call," wrote Judy McMahon of Sidney South, NSW. Some breeders sold dogs outright; others made lease arrangements. "In all, seven Standard Poodles and two Miniature Poodles, all males (and all but one entire), went into training, with a minimum of six Poodles being in work at each stage of the nine-month tour... The tricks they performed were mostly basic: jumping over arms, twirling on hind legs, crawling, skipping rope, rolling bandboxes, etc. However the speed of the action and all the spotlights and spangles made the act quite spectacular. Each dog had its own star turn, the most exciting being the brown Mini who circled the perimeter of the ring on his forepaws. A conga line of Poodles walking on hind legs with their forepaws on the backs of the dogs preceding them was the cutest of the group tricks. Another good trick consisted of the Minis circling the ring while leap-frogging each other all the way. We were promised care would be immaculate in every respect and this proved to be the

case...as well, owners had the opportunity to see their dogs at regional performances and ensure...[well-being]. Dogs were returned in super condition--and with new skills which, in the words of one owner, are guaranteed to make her a laughing stock when she tries to get her dog back in the ring!" ("Family Poodles Tour With Circus", Versatility in Poodles, Inc. *Bulletin* newsletter (December, 1994), and quoted at length in "Poodles", *Dogs in Canada*, September 1995, p. 54.)

Techni-Cal SUPERDOGS

In 1980, Herb Williams created the SUPERDOGS troupe; his concept was to (a) demonstrate the joy of owning a dog, and (b) allow dogs to entertain by running, jumping, and retrieving. In 1991, Williams teamed up with Chase, who is responsible for the brilliant choreography of SUPERDOGS shows in the '90s.

During the past 18 years, the SUPERDOGS show has grown--and grown in experience through performance before demanding audiences, such as at Calgary Stampede, Texas State Fair in Dallas, America's Pet Show in Los Angeles, and the Royal Horse Show in Toronto. SUPERDOGS now entertain over a million people annually.

The concept of SUPERDOGS is similar to that of a *Nutcracker* tour in which a tiny core of professionals draw a multitude of very competent amateur performers from local ballet schools. The SUPERDOGS are all family pets of over 400 amateur trainers who star in the many kinds of SUPERDOGS shows and productions. Of course, some SUPERDOGS are Poodles. To support SUPERDOGS, join the SUPERDOGS Fan Club, Techni-Cal, c/o Martin Pet Foods, PO Box 100, Elmira, ON, Canada, N3B 2Z5.

Entertainment on a smaller scale (even home-grown)

On a smaller scale, Chanda, a champagne-coloured Toy Poodle, was featured on a front page of *The Spectator* (now *The Hamilton [Ontario] Spectator*) on 13/2/96, because she delighted local audiences, particularly the young and old, with her 86 intelligent tricks. A photograph showed her playing the piano, and she was described fetching a tissue if you sneeze, putting away her toys, untying a knot... Her owner and co-performer is Hamiltonian Sharon Robinson, a retired hair-dressing teacher and 1988 Mrs. Canada. By Monday, 2 August 1999 (*The Toronto Star*, pp. E5-6), Chanda-Leah had 503 tricks in her "doggie bag" which achievement made her a TV star, put her in the 1999 *Guinness Book of Records* and also the *National Enquirer* (July 1999). As of August 1999, Chanda and Sharon have done more than 500 shows in schools, churches, nursing homes, and hospitals.

"Howling at the Moon", *Richardson News*, Richardson, Texas, Thursday, 30 July 1998, pp. 1B; 9B. "Pouche, a 9-year-old silver Standard Poodle is partner in a musical duet with his master, Richard Berman, a 7-years member of the Richardson community band. The pair has been featured on several TV shows. Berman, who considers himself the Dr. Doolittle of Dallas, and has acted as a pet psychic for 10+ years." J.O'C., 5/8/98. Picture with article shows a "beautiful silver Standard Poodle with a blue bandanna around his neck, singing (howling) next to his owner, who is playing a cornet." J.O'C, 1/8/98.

"Doggy Duet": Lesley Andrew, a singer-actress from Stratford, Ontario, Canada, demonstrated an opera singing duet with her apricot Toy Poodle, Pumpkin, on Monday, 22 February 1999 at the Advantage Search for North America's Best Singing Pet in Los Angeles, California. Pumpkin was last year's national champion. The duet kicked off the 1999 search, which coincided with Grammy Awards week. Picture shows Pumpkin singing along heart and soul in Lesley Andrew's arms: her eyes sweetly shut, her nose pointed skywards, and her lips curved around the sound. *The Hamilton [Ontario] Spectator*, Tuesday, 23 February 1999, p. D3.

"Hospital pooch cuts schedule", article about apricot Toy Poodle, Bambi, who semi-retired after eight years of entertaining sick children at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She sang, played piano, boxed, and danced--since 1991. Bambi's owner, Kathy Mounts of Plymouth, MI, was given Bambi by a woman who found her shivering in night rain on a five-lane highway. Bambi is Mounts' second performing Toy Poodle. Her first, Brandi, also sang and danced for sick kids; Brandi died in 1991 at age 18. Mounts started her non-profit volunteer work in 1977. *The Detroit News*, Sunday, 7 February 1999, Metro Section; story by Craig Garrett; photo by Daniel Mears.

If your Poodle, like Chanda and Pouche, is a natural performer in the old tradition, here's a pair of how-to videos: *Dog Tricks*, featuring Moore's "Mess of Mutts" with Stacy Moore and family. The salient characteristic of Moore's troupe is that dogs (no Poodles, alas!) and people are enjoying themselves enormously. Available from: Canine Training Systems, Ltd., 7550 West Radcliff, Littleton, CO, 80123. Tel.: (303) 973-2107. Also see a book (Poodle on the cover!) of the same name: *Dog Tricks: teaching your dog to be useful, fun, and entertaining*, by Arthur J. Haggerty and Carol Lea Benjamin (NY: Howell, 1978; 6th printing, 1988) ISBN: 0-87605-517-X.

The tailpiece for this section is a postcard, ca 1950, probably German.



Movies/videos starring Poodles!*

Silent films, 1895-1930

We are indebted to Karin Taylhardat, who contributed (2/'09) the attached list of [59 silent films \(1895-1930\) starring Poodles](#). This will provide a fabulous resource to anyone studying the history of Poodle conformation during the first several decades of the breed-standards era (see [Breed standards](#)), and will complement the various entries in our art history section [After 1880 or so](#) and, in relation to social context, in [Poodle Lit. pre-1929](#). NB: Two additional silent films, both starring Barnum, are *Ah! Quel Plaisir d'avoir un chien*, Romeo Bosetti (1911), and *Le Chien Viellait* (1912).

More recent films (with sound)

102 Dalmatians (2000). Disney. Directed by Kevin Lima and starring two Standard Poodles (also Glenn Close, Ioan Gruffudd, Alice Evans, Tim McInnerny, and Gérard Depardieu). "Although a family film, this movie will appeal to adults due to wonderful casting and snappy dialogue by Eric Idle who plays the Parrot. As visually breathtaking as the first film (*101 Dalmatians*) this sequel brings back Dipstick, one of the original's puppies, as an adult; Cruella has been rehabilitated temporarily, but the Dalmatians are soon in peril again as Cruella returns to her evil persona. Near the climax of the film two large white Standard Poodles in Paris pass important information to the rescuers of the Dalmatians. These poodles are being walked by their chic Parisian owner, and have been dyed blue and pink. An entertaining movie!" JS, 1 December 2000. See "April in Paris" by A.L. Sutherland (*Disney Magazine*, Winter 2000-2001, pp. 24-36) for information about shooting the movie in Paris in April 2000, and also about the dogs. Page 27: pix of the (French) Poodles with heroes Borzoi, Border Terrier and Mastiff; one Poodle is a "champion show dog." More about the Poodles, page 30: female dyed pink, the male is dyed baby blue; colour had to be temporary because the male was due to compete in a dog show right after the shoot. Quite a lot of interesting information about the trainers in this article.

Alligator (1980; USA). Directed by Lewis Teague. A baby alligator named Ramon is flushed down a Chicago toilet, subsists on on hormone-crammed experimental animals, and grows into a giant. A handsome Mini warns that Ramon is crashing an above-ground cocktail party, but not until the film is almost over: "OK, so I'm an insomniac. At times when there's nothing on TV. So last night, in the final minutes of the truly atrocious 1980 film "Alligator," I [enjoyed a few moments]... of mini poodle genius. Um, seconds. Like, 5 of them." (BM, 13/1/06)

Anywhere But Here (1999; USA) Directed by Wayne Wang. Mother/daughter relationship movie mostly set in Beverly Hills where the mother, who is in very modest circumstances, fibs in order to be shown a substantial house on the market; seller holds a white Mini in her arms. This is an unchallenging bit-part for the dog, who needs to lose weight.

April in Paris (1952). Warner Bros. Directed by David Butler, starring Doris Day and Ray Bolger. Ethel "Dynamite" Jackson is a chorus girl who mistakenly receives an invitation from the State Department to represent American theatre at an arts exposition in Paris, France. S. Winthrop Putnam, the bureaucrat who made the error, fails to correct his mistake. Off to Paris--where they meet and marry (they think). This movie contains seven Poodles, including "Ch Palmares Couronne D'or (Shamie) who was dyed teal blue, and Ch Palmares Blonde Au Frais (Candi), who was dyed yellow. Candi came in heat and missed most of the movie. The other five Poodles were champions belonging to Marian Spires." EU, 5/7/98, after conversation with Janet Blannin (Palmares).

Babe: Pig in the City (1998; USA) Directed by George Miller. Babe, having won a sheep-herding trophy, goes to the city to save the farm; gets involved with a travelling troupe of apes; after an exciting chase-escape from guard dogs, Babe rescues stray cats and dogs, among whom is an abandoned white/cream Standard Poodle dyed pink with a southern accent (one of the first to be trapped by animal rescue, tellingly, through praise of her accomplished tricks). Exciting escape from the animal rescue institution. Exciting rescue/destruction of hotel ballroom/banquet. The farm is saved. The Poodle matches up with an English Bull Terrier and after producing a litter of peaceable EBTs with pink curly topknots, runs off with another pal. It's a relief in this context that a Poodle has a role more substantial and complex than walking by on a leash or sitting in a lap. This movie owes everything to vaudeville and the circus comic-act animal-training tradition: very interesting if you're keen about training. You might feel compelled to turn off the sound so as to experience the film as mime. If you just want to see the Poodle, start with Chapter 13.

Berserk! (1968; USA). Directed by Jim O'Connolly; starring Joan Crawford. "This murder mystery features a travelling circus, aging Joan and (best of all) a group of performing poodles!" (TG, 12/'02) As of July 2008, go to [YouTube](#) and paste `v=fBHYH02rzmQ` into the search box to see a clip of this movie-- several minutes of brilliant performance by all sizes of Poodles. "This is SOOO poodle! I loved it!!!!!!!!!!!! Tails up, having the times of their lives doing complicated behaviors with unnoticeable cues in front of a live audience (and we thought agility training was challenging!) from small to tall dogs and lots of different colors, all definitely POODLES! Date is 1967...have we "improved" the breed...if so how?" (JB, 4/09)

Best in Show (2000). Castle Rock Entertainment (a Time Warner company) production released by Warner Bros. Directed by Christopher Guest. Big conformation dog show features white Standard Poodle, Rhapsody in White, handled by top-notch professional Christy Cummings (Jane Lynch), and a Toy Poodle (also a mysterious as-yet-unidentified Mini in a Group scene). For a review of this movie by CKC all-breed conformation judge Mike Macbeth (she loved it!), see "*Best in Show -- the movie*", *Dogs in Canada*, November, 2000, pp. 24-8; a sidebar, "Behind the Scenes" by dog-show expert Carol Garvin (she acted as consultant) gives an inside story. As for the Poodles we see on the silver screen, the Standard is represented by three stars:

- CKC Ch Exxel Dezi Duz It With Pizzaz, sired by AKC Ch Blueskies Full of Mischief out of AKC Ch Fantasia Black Magic, and owned and bred by Suzanne Warrington of Bellingham, Washington; we see "Desi" in the early scenes.
- Tarquin La Vita E Bella, sired by AKC Ch Revendune Bon Jovi out of AKC Ch Halcyon Hallellujah, owned by Christian Manelopoulos who lived in Washington State at the time of the filming; "Gina" was used in still photography -- the promo shots, and so on.
- Brocade Exclamation, out of AKC Ch Bouquet Vavoom by AKC Ch Pinafore Proud Boy, bred by Gloria and Steve Walkley and Jeff Burmeister, of Olympia, Washington, and owned by Kevin Patton, Jeff Burmeister, and Gloria Walkley; "Porsche" is the dog primarily used in the Group and BIS scenes. Standard Poodle "staffing" was supported by breeder Suzanne Loblaw of Vancouver.
- The Toy Poodle who wins 2nd in Group is CKC Ch Valcopy Sheer Glamour, by Am./Jap. Ch Valcopy Marky Mark out of Valcopy Sheer Misery, bred by Dana Plonkey and owned by Dana Plonkey and Beth Hilborn of Vancouver, BC.

Beverly Hillbillies (1962; TV series 1962-1971) Poodle "Claude"...the Drysdales' dog. "Claude was white (cream?) shown in a Dutch trim. He was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Drysdale (neighbors of the Clampetts). Of course, being the snob that Mrs. Drysdale was, she discouraged any contact between Claude with the Clampetts' Bloodhound or other Clampett dawgs. If memory serves me, there was one episode where Claude was scheduled to be 'married' to a very fancy French girl. ...[However, the marriage did not go through because] Claude fell in wuv with a mix-breed girl at the Clampett household. Mrs. Drysdale went to lots of trouble to plan the nuptials, including dresses/tuxes for all....had a bed custom-made for the honeymoon frolics." CPL, 2 February 2004.

Beverly Hillbillies, The (1993): "co-starred Lily Tomlin and Dabney Coleman, among others. The star was the same guy who did the *Ernest Goes to Camp* movie. Dabney Coleman was a devious neighbor/banker who had a snobby wife and the white Standard Poodle that the Clampett's Coonhound was courting." (NGT, 2 August 2004).

Big Fish (2003; USA). Directed by Tim Burton. Stars Ewan McGregor, Albert Finney, Billy Crudup, Jessica Lange, Danny DeVito ... and Asa, Bob Foley's top-working Agility Toy Poodle, who is crated in the costume-belly of the circus clown Soggy Bottoms played by Deep Roy. Soggy Bottom's character is based on an old circus photo as shown in a circa 1924 postcard entitled "Kassino Midgets..." (Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus; see <http://www.thepostcard.com/cir.htm> as of 12 January 2004). Although Danny DeVito's character in *Ruthless People* (1986) disliked a Poodle (see below), on the set of *Big Fish*, Danny DeVito asked Bob if he could hold Asa for a minute.

Bingo! (1991). TriStar Pictures. Produced by Thomas Baer, starring Cindy Williams and David Rasche, *Bingo!* is about a mixed breed's adventures trying to reunite with his boy. The producer wanted to make a movie that depicted the esteem in which he had, as a boy, held his own dogs. In the beginning of the movie, Bingo is living with a circus family which has a trained act consisting of three Miniature Poodles. The Poodles are white, immaculately groomed, and obviously well-bred. There are several scenes involving the Minis. Anyone interested in seeing an extraordinarily well-trained movie dog will love this movie. (Note from Heidi Bellamy, 10 January 1998: "In the movie *Bingo!* I believe the dogs' names are Ch Braylane Blitz..." This information was amplified by Judy Bray (Braylane Miniature Poodles) on 14 January 2004: "The poodles in the movie *Bingo* are my old boys: Am. Can. Ch. Braylane Blitz UD, TP, TDI and his two sons, Ch. Braylane Bill of Fare and Am. Can. Ch Braylane Bugsby CD, TP,TDI. The behaviors we used for this project were sit, down, stand, limp, hold, speak and stay. In one scene they were to all three bark wildly on command (which is easy) then all three "quiet" at the same time on command - which was a bit of a challenge.") Video available.

Boneyard, The (2000; USA). Directed by James Cummins. Stars Ed Nelson, Deborah Rose, Norman Fell, Jim Eustermann, Denise Young, Willie Stratford Jr., and Phyllis Diller. All's tranquil at the country morgue. The boss and her pesky Poodle are in charge--until the corpses start kicking and one bad dog mutates into the Horror Hound From Hell! Just keep repeating, "It's only a poodle, It's only a poodle..." (JS 2001).

Bruiser (2000; USA). Directed by George A. Romero (*Night of the Living Dead*; *Dawn of the Dead*); starring Jason Fleming, and Navereau Melody CD, CGC, ADC.

'burbs, The (1989; USA). Directed by Joe Dante. Adorable, animated, old-fashioned short-legged TP, "Queenie", belonging to elderly man in suburbs very sensibly and typically doesn't want to pee or poop on her own lawn so she goes next door(s) and causes an overblown crisis (the least of several in that neighbourhood). A bright star in an appallingly bad movie.

Calling All Curs (1939; USA). Directed by Jules White. A "three stooges" movie. The stooges run a pet hospital; Poodle "Garcon" is a patient. Dognappers posing as reporters steal Garcon...

Cookout, The (2004; USA). Directed by Lance Rivera. A "really awful 'comedy'..." ENF, 3/06. Stars a fabulous white SP. (You're on your own from here.)

Crooklyn (1994; USA). Directed by Spike Lee, starring Alfre Woodard, Delroy Lindo, David Patrick Kelly, and Zelda Harris. African-American urban life in the early 1970's, film about

dying and death; however, "scene with a whole apartment full of Poodles, many in show coat. It was very funny..." (JAH, 2 Feb. '98)

Designing Woman (1957; USA). Directed by Vincente Minnelli, starring Laren Bacall and Gregory Peck "in a tale about two opposites who attract. He's an unpolished sportswriter and she's a sophisticated clothing designer. Peck's ex-girlfriend has a brown Standard Poodle who jumps into Peck's arms every time he visits her apartment." CD, 6/04.

Dog Park (1998). Written/directed by Bruce McCulloch, who appears in this film along with his Standard Poodle, Kelsey. This romantic comedy (pokes fun at post break-up behaviours) stars Luke Wilson (*Bottle Rocket*); Janeane Garofalo (*The Matchmaker*; *The Larry Sanders Show*); Natasha Henstridge (*Species*); Mark McKinney (*Kids in the Hall*) in the role of a dead-pan dog-therapist uncomfortable with people; McCulloch (*Kids in the Hall*) as half of a well-matched couple (other half = Garofalo); five other (human) actors; and 27 dogs auditioned at BRB Canine Services in Mississauga, Ontario (dog hero is a Border Collie). Filmed (during November 1997) in Trinity Bellwoods park in Toronto. See "Bruce McCulloch goes to the dogs," *The Globe and Mail*, Saturday, 8 November 1997, p. C4. *NOW*, 10-16 September 1998, review by Ingrid Randoja.

Dogs & Cats (2001). Cats try to take over the world; dogs try to stop them, "there's a Poodle in the canine version of the UN." (KB 22 Oct. '01).

Doughgirls, The (1944). USA. Directed by James V. Kern. Arthur Halstead (Jack Carson I) and Vivian Marsden (Jane Wyman) are just married but when they get to their honeymoon suite in Washington, DC, it's occupied. Arthur goes to meet his new boss, and when he returns he finds three girls in the suite; he orders Vivian to kick them out, but they're friends of Vivian's... And, "the main character, Jane Wyman, has a black Standard Poodle whom she calls 'Dukie.' The movie is about the housing/hotel room shortage in Washington, DC during WWII." LH, May 2000.

Duke, The (1999). Great Britain. Directed by Philip Spink. "About a Coonhound who inherits his owner's dukedom. The Coonhound, Hubert, loves a Basset Hound named Daisy. A Standard Poodle plays the vamp who tries to steal Hubert's affections. CD, June 2000.

Dying Young (1991). USA. Directed by Joel Schumacher. "Fourteen minutes into the movie finds Julia Roberts walking up some outdoor stairs towards her new job as an in-home care provider for the leukemia patient. Two fluffy white Standard Poodles are observed walking the opposite direction, down the stairs, on lead and apparently under careful control. It would seem that these stunning animals required that their handler's eyes be on them nearly every moment through the scene, rather than simply 'strolling down the steps'." (LAB 7/08)

EastEnders (1985; TV series 1985-????) Directed by Jeremy Ancock, David Andrews... Daily lives of Albert Square (East End of London) folk. Dog owned by Sharon Watts and Grant Mitchell on this hit-Brit soap played from 1985 by male cream Standard Poodle Roly, who belonged to co-creator Julia Smith. In 1993, this Poodle-character killed in a mishap between a car and a lorry thus achieving a UK audience of 14.8 million, and driving a wedge between his

on-tube mistress and her husband. Real-life Roly retired to a life of ease. See: "Roly--The EastEnders", by Leslie C. Smith (*Dogs in Canada*, March 2005, p. 15.

Edward Scissorhands (1990). 20th Century Fox. Directed by Tim Burton. Mordant fairy tale about Edward who has scissors instead of hands, shows talent cutting (Poodle) hair; wins hearts. Video available. Here's a review by VH (Oct. '98): "This is a wonderful fairy tale with a sad ending. The stars: Johnny Depp (Edward); Vincent Price (in his last film, as the toy inventor), and Wynona Rider as the object of Edward's love. Edward is discovered by the Avon Lady who takes him home to suburbia to live a normal life. Edward is handicapped by the use of multiple pairs of scissors in place of hands. But he finds his niche with the neighbor ladies and is active cutting and styling hair, shrubs, and, yes! You guessed it! Dogs-- particularly a white Standard Poodle named Alexis. After visiting Edward she sports a clip of perfect circles all over her body. Edward gets into some trouble, and a little brush with police turns into a man-hunt and murder. But into every life a little rain must fall, in this case it is snow in Florida, and the fairy tale lives on for the family, retold over and over. The end will get to you: a box of Kleenex is mandatory. Dogs were provided for this movie by Gina Rubinich (her mother, F. Rubinich breeds Toys under the Hellsablazen prefix) Wieser in Florida....This is a wonderful movie that can be watched over and over."

GW wrote (10/98) that she "worked on the set for about four months; it truly was a fun experience for everyone involved. I was the groomer and found most of the dogs that appeared. The Hollywood Animal trainers were in Florida to track down a place to board the three dogs coming from Calif. to appear in the movie. They came to the board & groom establishment that I managed for a local vet. Some of my show pictures were hanging on the wall, & they asked if I groomed my showdogs. Well, of course the answer was yes. I was hired on the spot to groom, create the clips, & help find additional local dogs for the movie. What a hoot! The dog in the scene where Edward is being interviewed on the T.V. show is a BayBreeze Ch. bitch (call name "Breezey"?), owned by Sandy & Simon Dingfelder of Dade City, FL. The dog called Alexis (also her real-life call name) in the same haircut (polkadots), is a white bitch owned by Joe T. Kenel and bred by Betsey Hicka (Jonbets) of Brandon FL. A third white Standard bred by Betsey was on standby as an understudy for the first two; he's the dog whom some remember exhibiting in Open obedience at PCA National in the early '90's in his polkadots. I remember there being a little tadoo about whether or not the trim was 'legal' for obedience; I want to think he was a veteran. Neither bitch was obedience trained, so it was smart to have a dog that was, in case either of the girls became distracted during their debuts. The girls were able to pull it off, though. There was a fourth white Standard (the before-trimmed dog in the Alexis scene, lying next to the topiary) . He was a pound rescue, 11 years old, named Caspar. He'd been rescued by the Hollywood Animal guys & had been a movie dog for years. I chalked & trimmed him into an Airedale in one of the final scenes, when people are going to the castle to find Edward. They were reluctant to let me polkadot him because they were sure that he might need to play the fuzzy dog parts. Caspar retired after the movie; became a member of my family for his remaining years. He was so smart. On hand command only he would crawl, walk my kids by the hand, speak, he was a great guy. We loved him."

Elvira Mistress of the Dark (1988). USA. Directed by Phil Rubenstein. Comedy starring TV horror hostess (Cassandra Peterson), who inherits a delapidated house and a white Miniature

Poodle named Algonquin (whom she nicknames Gonk). "Gonk turns out to be a witch's familiar with the ability to morph into a Rottweiler." JS, June 2000.

Emperor Waltz, The (1948). Paramount Pictures. Setting: Austria. American photograph salesman romances an emperor's niece. American JRT-mix romances emperor's niece's top-pedigree black SP. The JRT-mix gets the Poodle with three puppies, and the American salesman gets the emperor's niece. Starring Bing Crosby, but "the black Standard Poodle...did a great job and in my opinion took the show....in continental. Pretty cool.... A great delight to watch." (RC, 23/6/'98.)

Evita (1996). Cinergi Pictures ("most anticipated motion picture event of the year"). Black and white TPs (Minis?). Video available.

Fanny & Alexander (1982). Sweden. Directed by Ingmar Bergman. Set in Stockholm in 1907: "As the children's father is lying on his death bed, the housekeeping staff distracts them with conversation and board games. One of the women states that 'Mr. Ålbrektsson told me his poodle had four puppies.' Mr. Ålbrektsson is reported to be making a lot of money on his dogs but is willing to give a puppy to the children, who are not, by the way, permitted to have pets. The staff offers to keep the puppy for them. Since they were simply distracting the children, the discussion went no further. It would seem that they never got a poodle, unless during the years following those involved in the film." (LAB, 7/08)

Frankenweenie (1984). Walt Disney Productions. Directed by Tim Burton, released on video by Disney Studios (copyright 1984); this short film (30 minutes) is a spoof on the movie *Frankenstein*. A boy brings his Bull Terrier, Sparky, back to life after he is hit by a car. A black Mini Poodle co-stars as Frankenweenie's love interest (the Bride of Frankenstein) complete with the white streaks up through her topknot. Video available.

Fuzzy Fairy Incident: a furry tale (2000). Charlene Dunlap: writer, director, editor, and she also provided the "talent"--this film stars her SPs Stoney, April, and a visitor, Sam. Molly is the clever canine fairy whom April mistakenly conjures up, and who who magically muddles affairs right to the end. Lovely dog training in this quasi-mime 32-minute film. A Canine Horizons Production. To order, mail a cheque for \$US12 (includes shipping) to Canine Horizons, PO Box 1576, Pittsboro, NC 27312 USA. See also *Sweet Dreams of Bleu* and *Wizard, The*. We asked Charlene Dunlap why she made movies of her Poodles, and she answered: "Most people who do a lot of dog training enter dog sports venues to show/test the training they've done. I have always been fascinated by animal actors--and my venue is making movies. My movies are filled with the dogs doing trained behaviors (even such things as yawning and sneezing are on cue) that are in context to my storylines. These semi-true stories are always based on (and triggered by) the personalities of my dogs. If my Poodles were hired by a commercial movie maker, they would be portrayed in ways I might not like--plus, only a miniscule amount of their education would be featured. In making my own movies I am free to have my dogs do as many trained behaviors as I can think of--and my Poodles are always portrayed in a loving manner. Since my other interest is computer video editing, the movies I make are professional quality--complete with music, sound effects and entertaining stories."

Gambler III: The Legend Continues, aka *Kenny Rogers as The Gambler, Part III -- The Legend Continues* (1987) (TV) (available in video). Directed by Dick Lowry, starring Kenny Rogers and Linda Gray, and Katherine Bryce's white Standard Poodle, "Barbary Lady, who looked so pitiful at the end of a leash held by the bad guy's secretary. In the film, the dog is eaten by Chinese railway workers or Indians, I forget which, but in the real world she earned dog food for her entire life that summer--and this obedience, Drill Team, Therapy Dog, and erstwhile show dog lived to be nearly 13 years old." Video available.

Good Boy! (2003; USA). Directed by John Robert Hoffman. "Family adventure -- a furry romp that both kids and parents can laugh at together. Twelve year-old Owen is a dog-walker for several neighborhood canines (a Standard Poodle, a Boxer, an Italian Greyhound and a Bernese Mountain Dog). When Owen gets his own dog, a little terrier he names Hubble, he is stunned to learn that Hubble can talk. Turns out Hubble is an interplanetary agent from the dog star Sirius and has been sent to earth on a mission to make sure that dogs ruled the planet. Now Owen is about to discover that Hubble and all his canine buddies are going to be sent back to Sirius because the Greater Dane (Queen of Sirius) has found out that earth dogs are kept as pets. (The Poodle has lots of screen time in this movie.)" CD, 2 June 2004. MJ, 20 November 2006: "In the movie 'Good Boy', my Banner, Reigate's Banner in the Wind CD, TD, shared the role of 'Barbara Anne' with his aunt, Scandal, CH Reigate's Cause for Scandal. The hardest part of having an animal actor for me was the time he was away training for the part, then being filmed, over 5 months. Perhaps if one is able to be on set, watch what is taking place, it would be more fun, but at least I'll always enjoy watching him on DVD." Here's Banner buying a ticket to see *Good Boy!*



Guys and Dolls (1955). MGM. Directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz, starring Marlon Brando, Jean Simmons, and Frank Sinatra. "Great" black Poodle walks through two scenes.

Hansel and Gretel (2009). Charlene Dunlap: writer, director, editor, starring her two Standard Poodles. A Canine Horizons Production. 10 minutes; to download in .wmv format (might not run on your Mac), go to [Canine Horizons](http://www.caninehorizons.com). See also *Fuzzy Fairy Incident: a furry tale*, *Sweet Dreams of Bleu* and *Wizard, The*.

Heartbeat (1993; British TV series; aired on TVO). Directed by Michael Miller. Episode: "A white Standard ...was entered in a 'prestigious' dog show. For some reason the owner was called away and the village 'entrepreneur' (meaning the guy who was always trying to make a quick buck, or pound in this case, but usually messed up) said he would take the dog in for her. He promptly lost the dog and his less-than-fully-competent assistant, David, decided to put in their dog, Alfred, as a ringer. Alfred was a hairy, silver lurcher. David bathed him up, gave him a funny haircut, and pranced into the ring with him. His attempts at imitating the other handlers are hilarious. The Poodle turned up again, covered in mud, looking like he's had the time of his life, and Alfred won a trophy for Best Mutt." (KC, 4 February 2004.)

Heidi 4 Paws (2008; USA, 4 PAWS ENTERTAINMENT, LLC). Directed by Holly Goldberg Sloan. DVD available 2009. Re-tells Johanna Spyri's *Heidi* with an all-dog cast and human actors' voice-overs. The butler is played by apricot Standard Poodle Sebastian (aka Robin Leash), who, according to his [press-release](#), "studied Shakespeare as well as dentistry before settling down into his life as a major Superstar. Having headlined eight movies that grossed over a million dollars apiece at the box office, the name Robin Leash is known around the world for comedy and entertainment. A former contestant on *Dancing with the StarDogs*, Leash is as comfortable on television as he is on stage in London. Not content to appear only in front of the camera, Leash has also directed, most notably, the indie favorite *P.S. Your Cat is Dead*. A known hit with the opposite sex, Leash is today a spokesperson for The Perfect Sleeper Dog Bed." As of 6/5/2009, we await more dog-owner-specific information!



HEIDI 4 PAWS
© 2008 4 PAWS Entertainment LLC

(l-r) Miss Rottenmeier (voiced by Majandra Delfino), the blind governess, Sebastian (voiced by Steve Guttenberg), the faithful butler, and Clara (voiced by Kimberly Beck Clark), the invalid puppy, join Heidi (voiced by Meghan Strange), in HEIDI 4 PAWS, a unique version of the classic children's story.

Het Myserie van de Sardine (Netherlands; 2005) directed by Eric van Zuylen. Poodle "Mamba is owned in the movie by a lady who seems to know everything about good and bad and the Bible.... Her name is Mevrouw van 's Gravensande and she is played by a really wonderful actress named Els Ingeborg Smits. The big star in the film is Victor Löw.... Mamba's pedigree name is Lux.Jr.Ch.Airy Arabeska Latino Mamba. She is bred by Victoria Denisova of Moscow, Russia and owned by me." (--Jeannette Hagen, the Netherlands, 6/2004)

Homegrown (1998; USA). Directed by Stephen Gyllenhaal. Big outdoor pot-growing operation on the west coast. Mafia chief's wife owns white Mini/Toy in moderate Continental; this is

another disappointing bit-part Poodle-in-someone's-arms roles, made only slightly more interesting by that the dog is reputed to enjoy eating testicles.

Hulk (2003; USA). Directed by Ang Lee. Sci-fi action drama, computer-generated. "...no movie...in recent memory...[in which] a Poodle plays a bigger part part in the film. The dog is, in a way, one of the stars of the film (though, to be fair, most of its screen time is as a CGI-animated, mutated, green Poodle)....here is a link to a [CGI model](#) of the dog." (WC, 18 August 2004.)

Inglourious Basterds (2009). War movie starring (albeit in a bit part) a gorgeous [black Standard Poodle](#). "Look to Mondino's right . . . aint he/she pretty?!? . . . LOL" (DJA, 18 Aug. '11).

Interview with a Vampire (1994). "Main character Louis dines on an aristocratic lady's two white Toy Poodles instead of her." (KB 22 Oct. '01)

Intolerable Cruelty (USA; 2003). Directed by Joel Coen. Starring George Clooney (Miles) and Catherine Zeta-Jones (Marylin). Gold-digger (Marylin) aims at rich killing in divorce by marrying a womanizing Beverly Hills lawyer (Miles). "About a third of the way into the movie, a white Standard Poodle makes his appearance as... [the heroine's] companion. Super-lawyer Miles spies Marylin and her canine 'fashion accessory' (sporting a fluffy show clip), walking down the stairs at a ritzy hotel. Miles catches up with Marylin in the elevator and begins chatting her up. As he is talking to her...[he pets] the dog, who promptly bites poor Miles." (WC, 18 August 2004.)

Isn't She Great? (2000). USA. Universal Pictures. Directed by Andrew Bergman, starring Bette Midler (Jacqueline Susann) and Nathan Lane (Irving Mansfield). Based upon the true-life story of Jacqueline Susann, author of the bestseller *Every Night Josephine*. (NY: Bantam, 1970) ISBN 0-55310-828-X, a very funny book about the author's Miniature Poodle, Josephine. "This movie stars a beautiful black Poodle playing the role of Josephine, who was Susann's pet. I didn't see a credit for her, although she had a lot of time on screen." (CM, 22 Jan. '01). Unfortunately, Josephine is mostly on leash and a flat, occasional character in this movie. You'll be disappointed if hoping for the vibrant and character-packed Josephine of Susann's wonderful book about her dog, Thus this movie is an opportunity lost for Poodles.

Jaws (USA; 1975) Directed by Steven Spielberg. Based on the best selling novel by Peter Benchley. "A great white shark is terrorizing a small seaside community at the peak of their summer season. A local shark hunter (Quint, played by Robert Shaw) is brought in to kill the shark. A Miniature Poodle belonging to Quint's assistant can be seen in several scenes as they prepare the boat to go out & kill the shark. In a deleted scene, Quint, his assistant and the Poodle are seen walking down the street towards a music shop." C. A. McGinnis, 6/04.

K-9 (1989). Universal Pictures. Lead role played by a German Shepherd Dog whose side-kick in the police department is a cop played by James Bulushi and whose (*very* briefly encountered, alas) lady-friend is a white Standard Poodle. Video available.

K911 (1999). USA. Directed by Charles T. Kanganis. Lead role is again played by a German Shepherd Dog, whose side-kick in the police department continues to be a cop played by James Bulushi, with a colleague, Mac (Jerry Lee). This time around, there's also a Dobe handled by a female police officer, and "the Poodle comes in the form of a love interest for Jerry Lee; it seems Jerry Lee is a Standard Poodle only kind of guy." JS, June 2000.

Kate & Leopold (2001; USA). Directed by James Mangold. Amusing time-travel film stars Meg Ryan, Hugh Jackman and Liev Schreiber. The Liev Schreiber character owns a goofy Anatolian Shepherd, who is attracted by a pair of white Minis he spies very briefly on the street. According to [MovieDogs](#) their names in real life are Charlie and Mario.

Kathleen (1941). USA. Directed by Harold S. Bucquet. Starring Shirley Temple (in her teen years) and a black Standard Poodle who wears a big topknot bow, and belongs to a furniture-store owner to whom Shirley pours out her heart.

Låt den rätte komma in/Let the Right One In (2008; Norway). Directed by Tomas Alfredson. This vampire movie wowed the critics. Chainsaw cuts into lake-ice to free a dead body, a white SP stands near body hanging upside down with throat cut.

Little Women There are six movie versions of Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* (see [Poodle Lit. 101](#)). Since Aunt March owned an (odious) Poodle, each version should contain a Poodle.

- (1918) Silent movie.
- (1933) RKO Radio Pictures, Inc. Katharine Hepburn plays Jo. Available for purchase.
- (1949) MGM. Elizabeth Taylor plays Amy March, and Peter Lawford is Laurie. Available for purchase.
- (1978) Universal/Groverton Productions. Made for TV. Available for purchase.
- (1979) TV series.
- (1994) Columbia Pictures. Directed by Gillian Armstrong; Aunt March played by Mary Wickes; the Poodle was "our Toy Poodle, Bruno," wrote Judy Bray on 14 January 2004. "His behaviors were play dead, speak and look very, very cute. The hair-do was done on purpose as this was a period piece.... [Bruno was a rescue animal who] came to us for rehabilitation and ended up spending the next 10 years on [my husband's] ... lap." Wrote FC on 14/07/98: "He is well-mannered, and sits on Aunt March's lap in every scene except two." Available for purchase.

Look Who's Talking Now (1993). TriStar Pictures. Features white SP named Daphne (voice provided by Diane Keaton) who stars opposite a mutt named Rocks (voice by Danny DeVito). Daphne appears in continental clip, grown out to about 1/4" in all shaved areas. Video available.

Manchurian Candidate (2004). USA. Directed by Jonathan Demme; starring Denzel Washington and Merle Streep. Gulf War; soldiers are kidnapped and brainwashed. "The scene is a beautiful country estate with large gardens, and Meryl Streep is with two men from the Manchurian Companies having a serious discussion when from screen right-- black speeding blur--having a BLAST--makes a u turn around Senator Shaw (Meryl Streep) and exits left.

Anyone who has a Standard will recognize the breed instantly, and an instant is about all there is!" SN, 1/8/04.

Move Over Darling (1963). USA. Directed by Michael Gordon; starring Doris Day and James Garner. Towards the end of the movie, a silver SP stands in front of a hotel lobby.

Murder, She Wrote (US TV series, 1984-96). Universal Pictures. In this series, mystery writer Jessica B. Fletcher finds herself right in the middle of one murder investigation after another! 5th episode in the 6th season, "Jack and Bill" (29/10/89), is narrated (but not starred in) by Jessica, and contains a male SP named Jack. "Ken Howard plays Bill Boyle, a retired football linebacker, who had gone into the PI business. A friend of Bill's, who worked for the CIA, stopped by Bill's office one day. The friend asked Bill to take care of Jack (a cream colored Standard Poodle) for a few hours. When his friend turns up dead later that day, Bill is stuck with this 'dainty fru fru' Poodle -- not his idea of a DOG. Bill is forced to take Jack along on a case. Later he learns that Jack is a 'highly trained CIA operative.' Jack earns Bill's respect and the two become partners." CD, 14/6/98.

Oliver & Company(1988). Walt Disney Productions. "A full-length Disney animated movie, it's Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*--with a twist. The characters are all dogs, except Oliver, who's an orphaned kitten. The last half of the movie features a Standard Poodle named Georgette. She 's glamorous, narcissistic, and conniving. A line in one of her songs (Georgette's voice is done by Bette Midler): '...perfect isn't easy, but it's me.' Excellent animation, storyline, characters, and music." CD, 12/99. Video available.

Paradise Road (1997). "Fox Searchlight Pictures. Starring Glenn Close, Julianna Margulies, Cate Blanchette, Jennifer Ehle, Frances McDormand, Pauline Collins.... Intense drama about women prisoners of war interred on Sumatra during WW2, stars a brown miniature poodle. The poodle is seen in the very first scene of the movie, sitting at the table with her mistress, Mrs. Roberts (portrayed by Elizabeth Spriggs), at the Raffles Hotel in Singapore, and is one of the main characters throughout. Appearing quite coiffed during the early scenes, she, like her human co-stars, begins to look more and more like a poodle prisoner of war as the story progresses. Predictably, she is referred to as a potential food source by the starving, mistreated women prisoners. She stars in her own solo/cameo scene which is extremely disturbing and if one didn't know that animal cruelty was not allowed on movie sets, would swear that the poor dog was hurt. It would spoil the movie for someone who hasn't seen it to say what eventually happened to the poodle. The movie is very powerful and disturbing in many ways and probably not a good movie for those easily bothered by violence. In the end though, it is an uplifting story and difficult not to watch to the very end. I believe it is based on a true story." MB, 10/2000.

P.E.T.A. (USA, 2004). Penn and Teller Bullshit TV series, season two, episode one, 1 April 2004. "On my favorite show ever, Showtime's "Penn's & Teller's Bullshit," in the episode about PeTA (SO good, if you haven't seen it, you can find it on-line; really shows those crazies for... being crazies) they had a black Standard and an apricot Mini in the segment where they talk about PeTA buying that huge freezer to store the 1k+ dogs and cats they euthanized." (ENF, 4/06) For more, see: [P.E.T.A.](#).

Pink Panther, The (USA, 1963). Directed by Blake Edwards. The kidnapped dog, central to the plot yet barely glimpsed, looks very like a black Miniature Poodle.

Princess Diaries 2: The Royal Engagement (USA; 2004). Directed by Garry Marshall. "The princess learns that to ascend to the throne, she must first be married. While viewing videos of prospective grooms, a well groomed white Standard Poodle can be seen sitting with Princess Mia's grandmother (played by Julie Andrews)." C. A. McGinnis, 6/04. "The Poodle's name is Gatsby and he was trained out of Mike Boyle's compound in Simi Valley, California. The on-set handlers were Shelley Davis and Kristy Campbell, who work for Mike. Gatsby is an awesome dog and was game for anything the director threw at him. I was one of four make-up artists on the set, and, since I have a Poodle, I spent a lot of time with them! I do not know who 'owns' Gatsby but he works a lot out of Mike Boyle's compound. Gatsby has done several commercials and several TV shows. He was in *Gilmore Girls* a few months ago and in a national commercial (I cannot remember the product they were hawking but I noticed him!). He is very gentle and sweet; a bit off-white in color and three years old. One of the tricks we had Gatsby do was to slide down a huge slide on a mattress! He did it the first time and the second, and the third and the fourth...well, you get the picture! Gatsby also had a stunt double named Thomas but he wasn't used because Gatsby did it all himself! Such a pro!" K.M.F. 6/04.

Rachel Getting Married (USA; 2008). Directed by Jonathan Demme. "There's a tall black SP named Olive (playing herself) in this movie. She's seen several times throughout the movie: in the background in scenes inside the family home, playing ball with a child (who isn't a member of the family-not sure where he came from) in the backyard, leading the short wedding procession and later in the closing credits, playing/barking/interacting with the groom the day after the wedding while he sits outside listening to his friends play music." M.C. 3/09

Razor's Edge, The (1946). Based on W. Somerset Maugham, *The Razor's Edge*, first published in the United States by Doubleday & Co. Inc., in 1943, 1944; in Great Britain by William Heinemann Limited in 1944. (There isn't a Poodle in the book: we read every word make certain of that!) Tyrone Power's first film after he returned from WWII. A black Standard Poodle is seen (very briefly!) twice, apparently belongs to Uncle Elliott (Elliott Templeton/Clifton Webb) because first seen in Chicago where he's visiting his sister (Louisa Bradley/Lucile Watson), and then again at his house in Paris; however it could be that both brother and sister own black Standard Poodles with tails cropped a bit short and somewhat reluctant to obey the manservant.

Rear Window (1954). USA. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Starring James Stewart (wheel-chair-bound hero who spies on neighbors from his apartment window and concludes one--Raymond Burr lookalike--has committed murder) and Grace Kelly (hero's glamorous girlfriend). "A white SP makes a very brief cameo appearance, walking from right to left on the sidewalk in front of the murderer's (i.e. Raymond Burr's) apartment building (as viewed from Jimmy Stewart's rear window, of course)." KF, 3 August 2000. Must be strong (or in possession of a one-track Poodle-mind), to watch *Rear Window* for a cameo appearance by a white SP!

Rescue Me (US; 2004) TV series, 2004-?. Directed by Jace Alexander and Adam Bernstein. "Two recent episodes of *Rescue Me* (FX) feature a miniature poodle as the new (and un-asked-for) pet of the main character, played by Dennis Leary. Tommy Gavin (Dennis Leary) is a New

York City firefighter who lives across the street from his wife Janet (Andrea Roth) and their three children, from whom he is separated. In the episode entitled 'Inches', Tommy arrives home one day to find a strange dog in the house: a silver miniature poodle. Upon contacting his wife, Tommy learns that the dog was the wish of his youngest daughter, but Janet doesn't want it in her house because it has not yet been housebroken. Though Tommy appears to hate the dog, by the end of the show the poodle is curled up on the couch with him. In the next episode, 'Alarm', the poodle curries further disfavor with Tommy by chewing up his favorite hockey jersey and continuing to make messes in the house. Although Tommy yells at the dog, later in the show it appears that Tommy is becoming attached to his new friend.... This is a new series. Whether Tommy's poor poodle is a temporary prop or a permanent fixture remains to be seen." (WC, 9/04).

Richard A. Wolters FAMILY DOG (1998). Based on Wolters' book, *Family Dog*. Produced by Joseph Middleton. Scriptwriter: Billy Fields (wrote for the--old--sitcom, *Taxi*). About how a family trains their own Lab. SP has the "catalyst" role of Pierre, who is professionally trained and belongs to the next door neighbor. In Pierre's first scene he goes to the refrigerator and gets out three cokes. In his second scene, owner hands him a letter to mail. Pierre carries it out of the room, across the front lawn, and up to the mailbox. He paws the lid of the mailbox open, puts the letter inside, noses the lid shut, and goes around to nose up the flag. Third scene...well, we don't want to spoil it for you. In real life, Pierre (whose real name is Stoney), is loved and owned (and trained) by Charlene Dunlap. This video can be ordered from:

Mid-Carolina Media, Inc.

10713 Cheshire Court

Raleigh, NC 27615

1-800-310-4418

FAX (919) 847-6265

Cost is \$29.95 plus shipping.

Rock-a-Bye Baby (1958), USA. Produced by Jerry Lewis. Paramount Pictures. "Jerry is on the roof, working on the TV antennae atop a chimney; in the livingroom below, a cream SP sits on the sofa near the fireplace while his mistress tells him about work being done to eliminate snow from the TV screen. Ultimately, in true Jerry Lewis fashion, the dog ends up with half its coat covered in soot after Jerry cleans the chimney from the top down rather than the other way around. Available in video. (LAB, 5/11/00)

Ruthless People (1986), Disney. Starring Danny DeVito, Bette Midler, Judge Reinhold and Helen Slater. "The poodle actor, named 'Muffie,' a white miniature poodle, and DeVito's character share an apparent mutual dislike for one another. During the early parts of the movie, DeVito even goes so far as to try to shoot the little dog but misses. He later 'hires' an attack dog, a rather handsome black and rust Doberman Pinscher named 'Adolf,' to do away with Muffie. Muffie and Adolf become great pals and appear in a later scene in the movie each carrying a shredded remnant of DeVito's character's silk tuxedo. I checked a couple of places but couldn't find the actual names of the dog actors." MB, 5/9/2000.

Sabrina (1954; USA). Directed by Billy Wilder. Starring Humphrey Bogart and Audrey Hepburn. B&W.; Romantic comedy about social class in USA: silver (grey?) Miniature Poodle

in Dutch clip belongs to Sabrina (the chauffeur's daughter, played by Audrey Hepburn) and occasionally appears sitting on Sabrina's lap: an undemanding role. Almost at the end of the film, on a ship underway, Sabrina removes the dog from her lap and plops him onto the deck; she forgets all about him and we never see him again, a sure way to create frantic unresolved tension in a Poodle-lover!

Sabrina, The Teenage Witch (1996) (TV). A girl, sent by her parents to live with her two eccentric aunts, finds out on her sixteenth birthday that she is a witch. Sabrina turns her rival into a barky little pesty Poodle (actually adorable, not annoying at all). Video available.

Sandy Bottom Orchestra (2000; USA). Made for ShowTime original. Brad Wigor, Director. Starring Glenna Headly, Tom Irwin, Madeline Zima (*The Nanny*) and Navreau Melody CD, CGC, ADC.

Sans Famille. There are seven film versions of Hector Malot's beloved chapter-book *Sans Famille* which was first published in 1878, and it seems continuously ever since: see [Poodle Lit. 101--pre-1929](#)). This is the story of a small boy, Remi, a foundling who is sold for 40 francs to a vagabond musician, Vitalis, who operates a performing-dog troupe. There are three dogs in the troupe: Capi--Capitano, a white Poodle; Zerbino--a black Barbet; and Miss Dulcie--small gray female; (see [Gallica](#) and from there go to Malot...*Sans Famille*...vol. 1, p. 30, second paragraph: "...un caniche blanc, un barbet noir, et une petite chienne grise..."). After many cliff-hanger adventures (including involving the deaths of Zerbino, Dulcie and Vitalis), Remi (with the faithful Capi) finds his very well-off real family from whom he was abducted as a baby and the book ends happily after 800 or so action-packed pages. We haven't been able to see these films; we can't guarantee that Capi is correctly cast:

- 1925: silent; France; B&W; directed by Maurice Kéroul;
- 1934: France; B&W; directed by Marc Allégret.
- 1957/8: France; directed by André Michel. Also known as *Abenteuer des kleinen Rémi* (West Germany); *Adventures of Remi, The* (1959; USA); *Senza famiglia* (Italy).
- 1965: France; TV-series directed by Yannick Andréi.
- 1977: *Rittai anime le naki ko Remi*; Japan; TV-series --animation--directed by Osamu Dezaki and Michel Gauthier. Also known as *3-D Animated Homeless Child Remi* (International English Title); *Rémi sans famille* (France).
- 1981: France; five episode-TV-series; directed by Jacques Ertaud; also known as *An Orphan's Tale* (USA); this series also ran in Israel.
- 2000: France, Germany, Czech Republic; two episodes-TV-series; directed by Jean-Daniel Verhaeghe); also known as *Findelkind* (Germany); *Heimatlos* (Germany); *Without Family* (English title). Alas! Capi is played by a maybe-Pyr, and Zerbino by a Border Collie.
- NB: Israel radio turned *Sans Famille* into a radio series in the late 1970's: *Be'eiyien mishpacha*. Query: did a Poodle perform Capi's sound-track?

Secret Life of Girls, The AKA *Unglued* (1999). USA. Directed by Holly Goldberg Sloan. Comedy about family breakup; sympathetic family dog is black Standard Poodle, Robair (what's written in block capitals above his dog house dog, perhaps by a child who hasn't yet taken French). Available on video from Blockbusters as of 22/05/00.

She Devil (1989). Orion Pictures. Starring Rosanne Barr and Meryl Streep. Poodle, named Juliet, is treated rather badly and is killed off in the first hour or so: while chasing a stick she leaps over a cliff to her death. Video available.

Silence of the Lambs (1991; USA). Directed by Jonathan Demme. Clarise M. Starling (Jodie Foster), FBI agent, single-handedly finds a missing woman in bondage to a psychopathic sex-changed killer devoted to his sturdy beautifully-kept old-fashioned short-legged white TP, "Precious", who is taken hostage down a well by the missing woman. The dog appears to relish the challenges of the role.

Small Time Crooks (2000; USA). Directed by Woody Allen. Several-seconds rear-view walk-by white TP. Hardly worth mentioning except that this film turns up in the dog-movie databases, so you might rent it by mistake: if you're into watching Poodles, this is not the film for you.

Sophia and Constance. British TV drama (shown in British Columbia on Classic Theatre on the Knowledge Network in January, 2000) from Arnold Bennett's *The Old Wives' Tale* (see [Poodle Lit. 101](#); first published 1908). In Episode 5, Sophia's French Poodle, Fossette, is played by a silver SP in continental. (In the book, Fossette's colour is unmentioned, and her size appears to be approximately the same as that of her smooth FT companion, Spot, because they play--and fight--without exciting undue concern.)

Surviving Picasso (1996). Warner Bros. "Only his passion for women could rival his passion for painting." Miniature Poodles appear for just a few seconds, doing a circus act. One walking upright with front paws on a large ball, four others following, "conga-line" style. Video available.

Sweet Dreams of Bleu (1999). Charlene Dunlap: writer, director, editor, and she also provided most of the "talent"--this film stars Standard Poodles: Stoney, April, Bleu, and Keila. This is a romantic comedy--"romantic, tenderhearted Stoney has invited the dazzling young Bleu to dinner and dancing, but mischievous April is going to do everything in her power to keep them apart." 32 minutes. To order, mail a cheque for \$US12 (includes shipping) to Canine Horizons, PO Box 1576, Pittsboro, NC 27312 USA. See also *Fuzzy Fairy Incident* and *Wizard, The*.

Sweet November (2001). Directed by Pat O'Connor (1968 screenplay). "Charlie (Keanu Reeves) is a driven advertising executive from San Francisco. While taking a DMV test he meets Sara (Charlize Theron) a free spirit--everything he is not. Charlie causes Sara to fail her DMV test--she won't be able to drive for another month. She makes a deal with him to give her that month to change his life for the better. In one scene Sara takes two white Standard Poodles for a run along the beach. She prances and capers about in mimicry of the poodles. This is a touching love story about a woman who has a sad secret and loves dogs and people. On video." (JS, 2001). "The Poodles in *Sweet November* are Florence Graham's [Graphic, reg.]... Bennett and four of his

sons." (LA, 2001). "There are five white Standard Poodles in the movie--they are wonderful--running and playing in the sand." (CEF, 2001). "A bit of a tearjerker romance but the bright spot in the movie occurs when Charlize's character is walking five gorgeous white Standard Poodles down a board walk. Four are in pet trims and one is in show coat. She lets them loose on the beach and there's a lovely scene of her playing with the dogs as they race around having a great time ... the only thing I liked about the movie was the part with the Standard Poodles." (CD, 2004).

That Old Feeling (1997). Universal Pictures. Leslie Dixon (producer/screenwriter), and Bonnie Bruckheimer (producer), directed by Carl Reiner. Filmed in April 1996; stars three TPs which appear in various scenes throughout the movie. Ch. Navereau Party Man (Mickey), Navereau Melody CD ADC (Melody) and Navereau Rhythm all belong to Cathy Siverns. Available to rent (as of October 1997) at your local video rental...

Theatre of Blood (1973), aka *Much Ado about Murder*. United Artists. Actor Edward Lionheart (Vincent Price) is into killing off critics, one by one, basing the murders on plots from Shakespeare plays. Meredith Merridew (Robert Morley) owns two Poodles, his "children", which get cooked à la *Titus Andronicus*. Video available.

Travels With Charley, NBC production made (in the late sixties) from John Steinbeck's *Travels with Charley: in Search of America* (see [Poodle Lit. 101](#)). Steinbeck and his French-born "bleu" Standard Poodle, Charley go west in outfitted pickup truck, "Rocinante" (now at home in the Main Exhibit Gallery of the National Steinbeck Center at Salinas, CA). Charley was played by a blue male, AKC Ch. Palmares S'il Vous Plait, call name "Slats"--until he did the movie, and then he was Charley. Slats/Charley was bred by Joy Davidson, taken as a stud fee puppy by Janet Blannin (Palmares), who says (Mar. '99) that Charles Schultz of "Peanuts" was one of the producers of the film. Unfortunately not available in video.

What Women Want (2000; USA). Starring animated white Toy (Mini?) Poodle, who was, according to [Moviedogs](#) trained by Boone Narr; the dog has approximately ten seconds on screen. Shortly after our hero becomes able to read women's minds because shocked by a hair-drier falling into a bathtub, he passes the dog in a park; she leaps up and protests in a French accent to her rapidly-walking companion: "Monsieur, I need to poop!" The movie's often funnier than that; don't rent it just to see that minute episode.

Wild and Wonderful (1964; USA), directed by Michael Anderson. Monsieur Cognac (aka The Poodle), a French TV star, creates a slapstick situation-comedy when he becomes jealous of the new husband (Terry Williams, played by Tony Curtis) of his mistress (Giselle Ponchon, played by Christine Kaufmann).

Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter? (1957; USA), directed by Frank Tashlin. "To save his career, an ad man [Tony Randall] makes a bargain with a sex symbol [Jayne Mansfield]; in return, he has to pretend to be her new lover. Although he feels as if his life has spun out of control, it has really just gone to the dogs. Evidence of this turn for the better appears in almost every scene with Ms Mansfield, in the form of her Standard Poodle. Although this dog mostly seems to be an

accessory item, since Mansfield dyes it to match every outfit she wears, the typical Poodle wit and charm shine through even the gaudiest multicolored polka dots." ER, June 2001.

Witches (1967; USA), starring Silvana Mangano and Clint Eastwood. Fantasy anthology film; in the Eastwood episode, Eastwood battles comic characters Flash Gordon, Batman and Mandrake the Magician. For this film, a series of lobby cards, #5 of the set, 11"x14" US, shows female star, Mangano, holding a small white Poodle in the air.

Wizard, The (A Canine Horizons Production, DVD, 2004). "It was the young Wizard's mission to help his person learn the art of joyful living. But, between the bungling of his Advisor Dragon and the interference of his sister, Sydney, Jyah's task was not going to be easy....Jyah soon finds that it will take all of his skills plus his new magic to teach his human the lessons that all dogs know instinctively." 35 minutes of fabulous dog-training in a finished docu-drama (hmmm...dogu-drama?), starring Charlene Dunlap and her two parti-coloured Standard Poodles, Sydney and Jyah. ISBN 9701685-1-9-9; go to www.caninehorizons.com or send \$US12 (includes shipping) to Canine Horizons, P.O. Box 1576, Pittsboro, N.C., 27312 USA. See also *Fuzzy Fairy Incident* and *Sweet Dreams of Blue*.

Zoolander (2001). Directed by Ben Stiller. White TP belongs to bad-guy, fashion-designer Jacobi Mugatu; the dog is hardly ever out of his arms and has little opportunity to develop the role (except, maybe she could bite him?). According to [Moviedogs](#) the dog's real name: Kiva, 10 at the time of filming.

*Sharp-eyed volunteers flagged these Poodle-films, and the source of many details was the [Internet Movie Database](#). See also: [Moviedogs](#)

Also noted:

- *Little Shop of Horrors* (1998; USA). Musical directed by Frank Oz. Florist eventually aided by monster plant. A black-and-white English Cocker Spaniel appears for a few seconds, to augment a vision of suburban normalcy. [Moviedogs](#) states there's a SP walk-by, but we watched the film first on fast-forward and then on fast-rewind, and didn't catch it; we have a pretty quick eye for a Poodle so don't rent the movie just to see that walk-by; anyway, we're beginning to think that these film walk-bys are demeaning to Poodles. Just what are the directors trying to say, please?
- N.B. *Men of Honor* (2000; USA). Directed by Geoge Tillman, Jr. True story of Carl Brashear, first African-American diver in the U.S. Navy. According to [Moviedogs](#) there are three dogs in this very good film, a Poodle, a Pug, and a King Charles Spaniel. The Pug belongs to a screw-loose director of a Navy diving school. The King Charles Spaniel appears with the Pug in a deleted scene. Where's the Poodle? Maybe the Poodle was cut as part of a simplification of the plot; Brashear's wife was a medical doctor, perhaps a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, the first African-American sorority founded (in 1922) at a predominately white university; the sorority mascot is the TP.

The headpiece for this section is a publicity photo for *Dandy* (1919) directed by Georges Rémond (France).