

AALL AT THE MOVIES

(Parental Guidance Advised ...)

Reviewed by Sally Holterhoff



Meet the Parent (1993)

Meeting AALL's new executive director for the first time can be stressful. Despite misguided attempts by law librarians to make a good impression, Roger H. Parent quickly sizes up his new situation. Surprisingly, he sticks with the job. The plot moves along with a series of encounters (some unintentionally amusing, others simply unbelievable) that Roger has with Executive Board members, committee chairs, and Headquarters staff. Good casting in the title role makes this story work.

Parenthood (1994–2001)

Life at AALL Headquarters is not simple. Roger H. Parent is determined to be a good executive director. But those annual conferences! Those board meetings! Are these law librarians dysfunctional or just crazy? Chapter relations, professional development, bylaws changes, strategic planning, and board governance are in the spotlight as Roger faces with good humor and class the trials and tribulations of bringing up a professional association.

The Parent Trap (2002)

A professional association with a good executive director can be lulled into thinking the

relationship will go on forever. But the sad truth is that person can just up and retire! As Roger plans a way to switch his identity to that of a retired resident of St. Thomas who lives on his sailboat, AALL leaders try to imagine running things without his guidance and support. Donald Dunn repeats his 1993 performance as chair of the AALL Executive Director Search Committee in this remake of an earlier version. Winter location shots in Chicago seem a bit dreary and repetitive (The Lodge, the Union League Club and the Monadnock Building). But scenes at a condo in the Caribbean are sun-washed and inspiring. An uncertain outcome builds suspense and AALL members are left guessing about the future. In the poignant closing scene, Roger shuts down his voice mail and e-mail, closes his last board book, and sails off for parts unknown (even to the AALL president and his executive assistant, Kim Rundle).

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