

Will my 19-year-old son ever quit his shit job at Rexall and pick up his horn again?



SHORT ANSWER: YES, emphatically.

What I like about this sequence is that we have LA PAPERSE who is taking a small break from her studying, followed by LE JUGEMENT where we have the proud parents, and then LA JUSTICE who holds the sword and the scales, and also our gazes all at once. There is a remarkable similarity in La Papesse and La Judgement. Both are sitting down, their respective chairs look alike, both are covered in formal attire, both wear crowns, symbols of achievement. So it might that their differences reveal what is interesting: La Papesse is engaged in reading and reflecting, she is shut inside in order to concentrate and completely devote herself to her work. Not unlike the rigorous regime a jazz musician must also complete. La Justice, on the other hand, holds a decision in her hands. The sword cuts through the bullshit once the scales have measured its influence. Her method is serious, the law abides with a concept of perfection, one that can be difficult to live by.

In fact, Le Jugement is the place where seriousness has no influence. The actual playing of the horn is without a doubt a great joy not only for you and your wife, but for your son. The situation is that after so much studying, the spectre of 'playing by the rules' is in some way blocking him. There is both the element of self-judging in terms of his abilities, and also the element of Justice as the balancer of life's needs: the never ending game of work vs play that your son as an artist has begun in earnest.

My advise is for your son is to move to New Orleans and play some proper funereal march music. He won't have anyone to please or piss off directly, and he will raise blue spirits with his axe. He will swing.