



BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

ROSALIE (15)

Director: Stéphanie di Giusto

Starring: Nadia Terezkiewicz, Benoit Magimel, Benjamin Biolay

France, 2024, 1 hour 55 minutes, French + English subtitles

Set in France in 1870, the film follows Rosalie, a woman whose face and body have been entirely covered in hair since birth. Despite her difference, she refuses to become a mere sideshow freak and decides to live a hidden life, shaving regularly. Everything changes when she meets and marries Abel, an indebted café owner played by Benoit Magimel. Abel knows nothing of Rosalie's secret and marries her for her dowry. However, Rosalie wants to be accepted as a woman and decides to stop hiding her difference. Will Abel be able to love her despite the truth? - **Sortir A Paris**

Stéphanie Di Giusto's *Rosalie*, unveiled in the Un Certain Regard line-up of the 76th Cannes Film Festival, has nonetheless done a more than honourable job, delivering a classic and well-controlled second feature film (after *The Dancer*, which spent time in the same selection on the Croisette in 2016) telling a story of supposedly impossible love, carried by two brilliant actors, Nadia Terezkiewicz and Benoît Magimel, with a special mention going to the former who not only had the audaciousness to accept the role in the first place, but also to play it with incredible ease. - **Cineuropa**

An eminently feminist melodrama, *Rosalie* questions the values and outlooks arbitrarily delineating the border between what's human and what certain people might describe as monstrous. It's a limit (which might also be a perfect metaphor for any other huge apparent difference) which Stéphanie Di Giusto explores with sensitivity, her meticulous and up-close exploration of the fluctuating feelings between the two main characters rightly placed at the heart of her entire approach. - **Cineuropa**

As with *The Dancer*, Di Giusto uses actual events to focus on an idiosyncratic soul who doesn't entirely fit in the conventional world. But *Rosalie* is hardly a dour tale of prejudice: for most of its runtime, the film is actually quite open-hearted as the townspeople come to enjoy Rosalie's presence, even if they're initially alarmed at the sight of her beard. This is not a picture of stirring speeches and showboating dramatic moments. Instead, it is guided by Terezkiewicz's utterly winning turn as Rosalie, who slowly gains confidence after she lets her whiskers grow. -

ScreenDaily

Preview courtesy of Picturehouse Entertainment

Notes compiled by Holly Dennison

If you like ROSALIE, you may also enjoy:

SLOW (15) - This sensitive but light-hearted study of complicated intimacy, shot in natural light and on grainy stock, immerses you in the world of dancer Elena and sign language interpreter Dovydas.

TWO TICKETS TO GREECE (12A) - A taste of summer in this female buddy movie as childhood friends reunite for a trip to the Greek islands that they have always dreamed of.