

In Safe Hands



Drama | Uk | 2019 | 110 mins | Cert 15

Director: Jeanne Herry **Screenplay:** Jeanne Herry

Cinematography: Sofian El Fani **Film Editing:** Francis Vesin

Original Music: Pascal Sangla

Cast: Sandrine Kiberlain, Gilles Lellouche, Elodie Bouchez

SYNOPSIS

Jeanne Herry crafts a story stemming from a delicate two-and-a-half-month state of limbo for a newborn child, Théo, who becomes a ward of the state after his mother gives him up for adoption at birth. In *Safe Hands* choreographs parallel strands of action: the search for potential parents undertaken by the social workers managing Théo's case, the care and vigilance required for Théo's foster father to properly nurture him in the interim, and the nine-year journey of adoption applications and fractured marriage embarked upon by a possible mother.

REVIEWS

Herry's watchful style – going easy on the handheld in favour of something more composed and elegiac – establishes the momentousness of the transition period between a child being given up and adopted

In Safe Hands is a little too quick to let its characters successfully process, in its eagerness to proclaim that fostering works. But this intelligently performed film is still a welcome look at a vital and underappreciated duty of state.

Guardian 29th May 2019

Herry clearly did her research here, and there are many scenes that border on non-fiction as we sit in on discussions between caregivers trying to decide what's best for the "pupil," which is how such children are referred to by the state (the French term "pupille" is the pic's original title). Most intriguing is the way in which the infant's psychology comes into play, with several sequences showing how vital it is to explain Theo's situation to him, even if he's unable to communicate his thoughts.

Hollywood reporter. July 2018



DID YOU KNOW?

- For some scenes, the production used plastic babies because the director did not want to put real babies in potentially traumatic situations.
- For the role played by Gilles Lellouche, the director was inspired by a real family assistant who practices in Brittany. Jeanne Herry chose Lellouche because she wanted "a man a little manly, who embodied a skull masculinity in the cinema."

Awards and Nominations

- César Awards, France 2019 Nominations: Best original screenplay, best actress, best actor, best director, best film
- Lumiere Awards, France 2019 Winner: Best Actress (Meilleure actrice) Elodie Bouchez

COMING UP NEXT...

Friday 24th April 7:45pm

Fisherman's Friends

A fast-living, cynical London music executive (Daniel Mays) heads to a remote Cornish village on a stag weekend where he's pranked by his boss (Noel Clarke) into trying to sign a group of shanty singing fishermen (led by James Purefoy). Ten fisherman from Cornwall are signed by Universal Records and achieve a top ten hit with their debut album of Sea Shanties. **Cert 12A, 112 mins**

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