

Sophie Mathisen's 'Drama'- film review

Words by Abigail Ryall // 20 November 2016



Image: eastendfilmfestival.com

"I'd rather be stupidly malicious than maliciously stupid" - Anna

Life is a drama. In **Sophie Mathisen's** first feature movie, this is certainly the impression we receive of the protagonist's (who honestly, is also her own antagonist) way of life.

In the first few minutes of the movie, Anna (**Sophie Mathisen**) makes the slightly far fetched decision to whisk herself away for an impromptu visit to her best friend from drama school, living in Paris, under the pretense of an audition. She doesn't phone ahead to let Jean (**Jonathan Burteaux**), know that she will be arriving. And in the way humanity likes to screw itself, it's revealed she is actually there to see her ex-boyfriend, John (**Tom Wren**).

The morally ambiguous friendship Anna and Jean seem to create for themselves seems precariously balanced between lies and arguments. *"You love rejection more than you love yourself,"* accuses Jean in a drunken debate between them.

Drama makes you cringe in all the right ways (think *Bridget Jones* but more believable and relatable). We find ourselves personally involved in the life of Anna, a not so successful drama school graduate (in comparison to Sophie - a very successful drama graduate), hell bent on trying to get back with a man who in the words of Jean, *"treated you like shit"*. They all keep lying to their significant others, but reveal the truth to a third party - something we often do in real life.



Image: @AFilmcalledrama

With Anna neglecting her pride and sucking up to those who do not deserve the attention, the movie tackles familiar ideas of self sabotage and emotional manipulation that leaves you fighting to slap the screen in protest.

It's a fabulous film and Mathisen obviously flung herself into it (the rest of her graduating class stuck to making short films for their final project, hers was feature length - she's one of those people). This dedication process in fact led to what she called, one of the most awkward post-sex scene moments ever, when the car which was used for the *moment d'amour* (owned by Jean/Burteaux's dad) was used to drive her to the Charles de Gaulle airport as from the passenger seat she re-envisioned her feet unceremoniously up on the dashboard.

Enlisting established actors like **François Vincetelli**, across the Channel (and the equator) all to make this film - were big chances to take as a student. Mathisen's dedication and risk were not wasted however, it's definitely worth the watch.

Drama is available on itunes [here](#)