

Chester Film Society presents

Azor

Argentina/France/Switzerland 2021 | 1hr 40m | Cert 12

Director: Andreas Fontana

Starring: Fabrizio Rongione, Stephanie Cléau, Elli Medeiros, Alexandre Trocki

Synopsis

A Swiss banker visits Buenos Aires to handle the business concerns of his missing associate.

Gripping drama that elegantly slips the viewer into its cold embrace and never loosens its grip.

Critical acclaim

"Azor is a quiet, unhurried, un-flashy film, and that's what makes it unnerving. You come away from it feeling that you've been given a greater understanding of how authoritarian power-grabs happen." *Roger Ebert*

"Like the intelligent performances — both Rongione and Cléau are standouts — and the terrific art direction, the film's design reinforces an exquisite, levelheaded decorum about to be smashed by a chillingly cruel monster." *Variety*

"It's perhaps one or two increments too obscure, too puzzling and too unwilling to give anything away that it seems to end mid-sentence, without any traditional closure. Yet it's still a bold work that puts great faith in its cast to play along with this game of chilling insouciance." *Little White Lies*

"To the less patient viewer, the lack of clarity on the finer points of high finance and characters' backgrounds and not getting period-orienting news updates about the political situation, might seem confounding. But Azor works without them, because those details would only disrupt the artfully portentous chill Fontana gets from the

pitch-perfect performances and design, and Gabriel Sandru's cinematography." *LA Times*

"With its elegantly restrained cinematography, exquisitely understated performances, and quietly sumptuous production design, Azor embodies the same well-mannered urbanity as its protagonist." *Slant Magazine*

"Pure evil is all around in this unnervingly subtle, sophisticated movie; an eerie oppression in the air." *The Guardian*

"This superb debut feature from Andreas Fontana puts an ingenious spin on the paranoid thriller: its main character is determined to behave as if he isn't in one." *The Telegraph*

"Watching Andreas Fontana's wildly impressive first feature, co-written by the director and writer Mariano Llinás, is a little like being Warren Beatty in *The Parallax View*" *The Irish Times*

Conclusion

Azor itself is a code word meaning "to not say too much" or "to keep one's cards close," a trait that the film and its protagonist so excel at, viewers will be kept guessing until the last moment.

Our next film:

Close. Showing February 22nd 2024

7.30pm (doors 7 pm)

At The Garret, Storyhouse

www.chesterfilmsociety.co.uk

Please rate tonight's film using the scale below. We welcome your comments! Detach and hand in as you leave.

| ---- I loathed it ---- | ---- I disliked it ----- | ----- It was OK ----- | ----- I liked it ----- | -----I loved it ----- |

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10