

Chester Film Society presents

Love According to Dalva

Belgium/France | 2022 | 1hr 28m | Cert 15

Director: Emmanuelle Nicot

Starring: Zelda Samson, Alexis Manenti, Fanta Guirassy

Note: *Love According to Dalva* will be preceded by a short AGM

Synopsis

Dalva is 12, but she dresses and lives like a woman. One day, she's taken away from her house and away from her predatory father. Dumbfounded at first, she later meets Jayden, a social worker, and Samia, a teen with a temper. A new life seems to start for Dalva.

Critical acclaim

"This assured French-language debut from director Emmanuelle Nicot negotiates its disturbing subject matter with delicacy, sensitivity and honesty. In the central role, the magnetic Samson is a revelation."

The Guardian

"Given its subject matter, you'd be forgiven for thinking *"Love According to Dalva"* would be a difficult watch... But the film also finds room for humor and laughter, for pathos and catharsis. Even as we follow this tightly wound-up girl who fears ever letting her guard down, Nicot encourages us to look at her not with pity but with grace. It's an astounding feat of filmmaking."

Variety

"[Director] Nicot has accommodated Samson's inexperience as a performer. She hasn't pushed her young star to any great heights of histrionics here, but that makes the performance all the more believable as we track Dalva's shifting emotions through tiny smiles or anxious looks."

Hollywood Reporter

"By remaining solely within Dalva's (Zelda Samson) perspective, Nicot abruptly flips the script on the conventional abuse narrative, stubbornly yanking the character out of victim mode and giving her autonomy."

Indiewire

"Filmed in 4/3, up close, often from behind, Zelda Samson lends her bubbling energy, first rebellious then increasingly luminous, to Dalva, a thwarted child who is finally given the time to discover adolescence at her own pace."

Cannes Critics Week

Conclusion

Love According to Dalva starts dramatically, tackling a difficult subject with restraint, yet never underplaying. Nevertheless, Dalva's story is one of reconstruction and reinvention. It leans towards the light, and finally touches on carefree living and a girlhood reclaimed from the dark.

Our next film:

Cairo Conspiracy

Showing on October 26th

7.30pm (doors open at 7pm)

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