

Short Film Review: Delicate Gravity

Nov 08, 2013 David Ollerton Reviews , Short Film Reviews No comments



Delicate Gravity

Rating: ★★★★★ 4/5

To say that *Delicate Gravity* ([website here](#)), written and directed by Philippe André, is a quintessentially French film is said without wishing to culturally stereotype, but the markers are all there. From the slightly dishevelled, divorced intellectual-esque translator (and would be novelist) to the highly attractive woman waiting in a hotel room for a meeting with her (presumably married) lover, to the fact that not an awful lot happens and more is left unsaid than openly stated, it all feels very recognizably French in tone, execution, story and character. *Delicate Gravity* is also utterly charming, an uplifting little film that will put a smile on your face for its simplicity, lack of pretension and understated emotional undercurrents.



Delicate Gravity (trailer) from philippe andré on Vimeo.

Opening with Paul (Yvan Attal) in a Vietnamese restaurant leaving answerphone messages for his daughter and ex-wife, he picks up a message that has been left for him by mistake by a woman called Claire (Anne Parillaud). Accidentally phoning him instead of her absent lover, her slightly desperate message leads Paul to become concerned about her – she sounds sad, perhaps even suicidal. When calling the hotel and the police yields no results, Paul reluctantly decides to go there himself and let her know that she has phoned the wrong person, leading to a brief but sweet (if a touch predictable) encounter between the two.

Yvan Attal as Paul has a typical Gallic charm about him despite (or more likely because of) his slightly crumpled look, whilst Anne Parillaud as Claire portrays a woman both strong yet vulnerable – and equally charming – perfectly. Both leads are class acts, with understated approaches which in each moment gives away just enough information about the characters to draw us in. *Delicate Gravity* is not a big film about important topics, its just a story about one little moment in time, a chance connection made between two people and as such is a lovely film. It smartly ends on a lovely, bittersweet and yet uplifting note that makes the film well worth it.

Delicate Gravity has won several awards, including Best of Festival at Palm Springs Festival, Best Foreign Short and Best Festival Short at the Nevada City Film Festival. *Delicate Gravity* is also official selection at Portobello Film Festival and Flickers Rhode Island International Film Festival.

Website: [website here](#)

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