



BY THE GRACE OF GOD (Grâce à Dieu)

21st
Year!

Autumn
Season
2019

Release: 2018

Cert (UK): 15

Country: France

Language: In French with English subtitles

Runtime: 2 hour 17 mins

Director: François Ozon

Writer: François Ozon

Cinematographer: Manuel Dacosse

Cast: Melvil Poupaud, Denis Ménochet, Swann Arlaud

The film that takes off where *'Spotlight'* finished. Not content with investigating historic child abuse scandals in the Catholic church, Francis Ozon released this drama around the trial of Cardinal Philippe Barbarin before the actual trial was finished. *'Not a documentary exposé, as the filmmaker once intended, because that would do little more than reiterate the facts these brave men have already worked so hard to disseminate through the media. And certainly not a psychosexual thriller in the vein of Ozon's previous work...No, this would have to be a sturdy portrait of everyday heroism - a sober but compelling drama that rewarded its real subjects by casting famous movie stars to play them on the big screen'* -



David Ehrlich, Indiewire.

The film follows the story of three semi-fictional victims of sexual abuse by the same priest, Bernard Preynat, after one of them, Alexandre, discovers he is still a serving priest many years later. He takes his case to Cardinal Barbarin who professes concern but does little about it. Once other victims hear about the case and come forward, Barbarin's position becomes harder to sustain. *'All three men's anguish, however, is put into relief by that of Emmanuel, one of Preynat's most serially exploited charges. Unlike his peers, the near-derelect Emmanuel has never managed to push past trauma to get his adult life on track; as the men form an activist union to "lift the burden of silence" on their abuse, he finally finds a place to belong'* - Guy Lodge, Variety.

