



CHOCOLAT

Spring
Season
2017

Release: 2016
Cert (UK): 12A
Language: French
Runtime: 1 hr 59 mins
Director: Roschdy Zem
Writers: Cyril Gely
Cinematographer: Thomas Letellier
Cast: Omar Sy, James Thierrée, Clotilde Hesme



'The French expression être chocolat – to be thwarted, or foiled – comes from the late 19th-century Cuban-born clown who helped revolutionise the discipline as a pratfalling sidekick to Parisian star George Footit. But it's Chocolat, played with gangly exuberance by Omar Sy, who's centre stage, and Footit, played by Charlie Chaplin's grandson James

Thierrée, the foil in this lavish and increasingly involving study of fin-de-siècle racism. Initially relying on spiritedly played circus hijinks to drive it forward, the film enters richer character study territory in its second half. Realising his victim role panders to the prejudices of the time, Chocolat – real name, Rafael Padilla – struggles to leave circus behind...' – Phil Hoad, Guardian.

We last saw Omar Sy in 'Untouchable' in December 2012, where his performance helped make that film the highest rated of the season (92.55%). He has moved on to become a major star in France and the reviews of this film all point to him being the power here too. Interestingly, James Thierrée (the image of his grandfather) is actually a professional circus performer as well as an actor, director and violinist who specialises in theatre which 'blends contemporary circus, mime, dance and music' – Wikipedia.

Roschdy Zem is a French actor of Moroccan descent who is credited with 86 parts on imDB (he starred in 'Days of Glory' (Indigenies) that we had in 2007) who has turned to writing and directing. This is his fourth film.

