



CUSTODY (Jusqu'à la garde)

20th
Year!

Autumn
Season
2018

Release: 2017

Cert (UK): 15

Country: France

Language: French with English subtitles

Runtime: 1 hour 33 mins

Director: Xavier Legrand

Writer: Xavier Legrand

Cinematographer: Nathalie Durand

Cast: Léa Drucker, Denis Ménochet, Thomas Gloria



A custody battle between a soon-to-be-ex-married couple: but, as Odie Henderson says in RogerEbert.com - *'Watching 'Custody' I was reminded of one of Roger's tenets: "It's not what a movie is about, it's how it is about it."* Writer/director Xavier Legrand's feature length debut is about a bitter custody battle, but he has chosen to execute his plot as a quiet, brutally relentless psychological thriller. 'Custody' filters the majority of its terror through Julien Besson (Thomas Gloria), the 10-year-old boy at the centre of his parents' vicious legal struggle. This device never feels exploitative, because as any child of divorce will tell you, the dissolution of one's parental unit is traumatic even when the split is amicable. And this is not an amicable split'.

The film starts in court, where Antoine Besson is arguing for joint custody of Julien whilst his soon-to-be-ex-wife is arguing against. Is Antoine the innocent husband whose wife has set his kids against him, or is he the violent person she claims..?

The acting of all the cast gets great reviews, especially Thomas Gloria - *'he has a very expressive face that often fills the screen in silence while his body telegraphs the sad resignation of one who feels helpless'* - Odie Henderson again - whilst Xavier Legrand's direction won him the Silver Lion at Venice: he *'seems precociously adept at turning the screws of suspense'* - Anthony Lane, New Yorker.

