



LA SYNDICALISTE

24th
Year!

Autumn
Season
2023

Release: 2022

Cert (UK): 15

Country: France

Language: In French with English subtitles

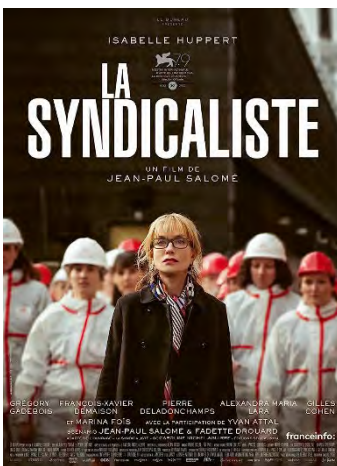
Runtime: 2 hour 1 mins

Director: Jean-Paul Salomé

Written by: Fadette Drouard, Caroline Michel-Aguirre & Jean-Paul Salomé

Cinematographer: Julien Hirsch

Cast: Isabelle Huppert, Grégory Gadebois and François-Xavier Demaison



"My name is Maureen Kearney. I didn't lie. I didn't make anything up." *This French drama about a blood-boiling real-life case of injustice is the story of whistleblower and rape survivor Maureen Kearney, who for four years lived with a criminal record: falsely convicted of wasting police time, accused of inventing her rape* - Cath Clarke, Guardian. Irish woman Maureen Kearney (played magnificently, as always, by Isabelle Huppert), was a trade union leader in France in 2011. Working in a large nuclear engineering company, she finds out that the new management are planning to sell off France's nuclear technology to China. Her life changes when she turns whistleblower; she begins

to get threats at home and eventually, a masked man breaks in and brutally sexually assaults her.

'The thing is, to the police, she is the wrong kind of victim. Why is she so composed? She doesn't cry, and tells her story calmly, like she's rehearsed it, the lead detective says. Kearney's #MeToo legal hell begins' - Cath Clarke again. This is not a comfortable film to watch, especially when we remember this actually happened. Her life was doubly wrecked, first by the attack and then by the barrage of lies spread about her by the police and judiciary. There are even some reviewers who knock the film itself – *'I'd be the first to admit La Syndicaliste isn't perfect (much of the camera-work is anonymous; there are multiple loose ends). But the nuclear force of Huppert's performance makes such gripes irrelevant. La Syndicaliste shows how easy it is to destroy the lives of low-paid workers and those who represent them. No Gallic shrug from Huppert. She gives a damn'* - Charlotte O'Sullivan, Evening Standard.