



MARIUS

Spring
Season
2014

Release: 2013

Cert (UK): 12A

Runtime: 93 mins

Director: Daniel Auteuil

Screenwriter: Daniel Auteuil from the story by Marcel Pagnol

Cast: Raphaël Personnaz, Victoire Bélézy, Daniel Auteuil, Jean-Pierre Darroussin

Language: French with English subtitles



Daniel Auteuil came to fame in 1986 starring in two films – ‘*Jean de Florette*’ and ‘*Manon des Sources*’ – taken from Marcel Pagnol novels. He returned the favour with his directorial debut ‘*The Well-Digger’s Daughter*’, which we had in Keswick last year, and now continues his homage to Pagnol with the Marseille trilogy – ‘*Marius*’, ‘*Fanny*’ and ‘*Cesar*’. The first two were released together, and we have them as ‘bookends’ to our Spring season. The third film is almost completed. Auteuil wrote the screenplay, directs and stars as Cesar.

Much of ‘*Marius*’ is deliberately filmed as though it were a stage play, albeit the backdrop is a ‘*Marseille through rose-coloured glasses, a twinkling port town, drenched in technicolor-style hues*’ as Amber Wilkinson says in Eye for Film.

The story follows two would-be lovers, Marius (played by Raphaël Personnaz) and Fanny (Victoire Bélézy). Marius works in his father’s (Cesar) bar, whilst Fanny helps her mother Honorine sell shellfish. But will the pull of the sea take him off to be a sailor, or will Fanny’s charms be enough to hold him? Will Marius’ love be enough to keep Fanny from settling for the richer but much older Panisse?

Auteuil directs to push the will they-won’t they love story to the fore (with lots of shots of the two standing very close), but reserves the background for much humour, mainly for the older people in town – Cesar (Auteuil), Honorine (Marie-Anne Chazel) and Panisse (Jean-Pierre Darroussin). The result, as Wilkinson goes on to say, is ‘*a sweet-natured joy, the ending of which will have you immediately booking your ticket for the sequel*’ – see it here on 30th March.

All the cast get good reviews, with the older generation having fun with the laughs, whilst Personnaz is compared to Gene Kelly for his grace.



