



THE MIDWIFE (Sage Femme)

Autumn
Season
2017

Release: 2017

Cert (UK): 12A, F

Country: France

Language: French with English subtitles

Runtime: 1 hour 57 mins

Director: Martin Provost

Writer: Martin Provost

Cinematographer: Yves Cape

Cast: Catherine Deneuve, Catherine Frot, Olivier Gourmet |



*'As a director, Martin Provost is known for creating portraits of strong, uncompromising female characters, with films such as *Séraphine* and *Violette* under his belt. 'The Midwife' continues with this tradition, although it's definitely not more of the same. Catherine Frot made her film debut as an actress in 1975, and cinematic icon Catherine Deneuve made hers back in 1957. It was Provost who brought*

them together for the first time, giving Deneuve a chance to play a more free-spirited character than audiences might expect from her contemporary offerings. Claire (Catherine Frot) is a midwife who approaches her own life with the same unflappable calm with which she oversees the births of others. Béatrice (Catherine Deneuve), meanwhile, has never seen the point of denying herself pleasure. She chomps lasciviously on steaks and slurps red wine while Claire, a teetotal vegetarian, toys with a green salad. A low-key Dardennes-style realism is seasoned with just a touch of melodrama; two formidable actors attack their roles with the same gusto that Béatrice deploys when faced with a nice bottle of Graves.' - Wendy Ide, Guardian.

'The Midwife' brightens whenever Deneuve and Frot take center stage. Deneuve has the more showy role as the uninhibited Beatrice, a woman who still drinks, smokes, and eats like there's no tomorrow because there might not actually be one for her. She's fantastic, but Frot deserves acclaim for her own restrained performance; it's a treat to watch her convey anger, disappointment, and bemusement in a single reaction. The two have palpable chemistry...' - Roger Ebert.