

LA BRIGADE

THE KITCHEN BRIGADE

Original version: French / Subtitles: English



Director : *Louis-Julien Petit*
Released date (Québec) : June 24 2022
Genre : *Social Comedy*
Country : *France*

Length : 86 min.

CLASSIFICATION – RÉGIE DU QUÉBEC

<https://www.mcc.gouv.qc.ca/index-i%3D5939.html>

La brigade



En savoir plus

Motifs de classement

Le film offre une leçon d'humanisme à travers des situations humoristiques et des péripéties désopilantes. L'histoire aborde les thèmes de la tolérance et de la cohabitation des cultures dans un climat léger, et peint une galerie de personnages sympathiques et attachants.

Date de classement : 10 mai 2022

Classification grounds

The film offers a lesson in humanism through humorous situations and hilarious adventures. The story tackles the themes of tolerance and cohabitation of cultures in a light climate, and paints a gallery of likable and endearing characters.

SYNOPSIS

Cathy is a stubborn 40-year-old sous chef. This year, she is finally about to fulfill her lifelong dream: opening her own gastronomic restaurant. But nothing goes as planned. Facing serious financial difficulties, she reluctantly accepts a job in the cafeteria of a shelter for young migrants. While she hates her new position, Cathy's skills and passion for cuisine start to change the kids' lives. And they also have a lot to teach her...

<https://en.unifrance.org/movie/51782/the-kitchen-brigade>

REVIEWS

“A fun comedy that reflects enthusiasm, love, and respect for the characters it portrays.
Erick Estrada – Cinegarage (translated from Spanish)

The Kitchen Brigade is a compassionate look at the plight of immigrants who arrive in France full of hope but without any real perception of the difficulties they face in being granted citizenship. The film deals with the plight of illegal migrants – poverty, alienation, the problems of being undocumented minors – and it also tackles issues of social justice – *Greg King – The Blurb*

The Kitchen Brigade offers a thoughtful look at some of the difficulties migrants face in their quest to escape poverty, violence, and hopelessness and to make better lives for themselves and their families. The film makes no suggestion that there are easy answers. Rather, it takes us into the hearts and minds of a group of people just trying their best on both sides of the equation. ... The Kitchen Brigade takes on a very real and all-too-common story with a light and engaging touch - *Michele E. Hawkins – BMA Magazine*

DETAILS

LANGUAGE

One of the film's thematic element is about cooking and there are many words on cooking and its ingredients: names of vegetables, spices, recipe ingredients, cooked dishes.

Once in a while, the spoken French is a little bit damaged by migrants who make a good effort to speak it.

A discipline is imposed by the repetition of "yes Chef". Many verbs are used in the imperative mode to order the peeling of vegetables and other culinary tasks.

Because they learn the language both in classes and in immersion, young migrants use backslang words like "kiffer" for love, as an example.

As such, Cathy Marie herself speaks of "taff" (backslang), and "boulot" (familiar for work). From time to time, common language exclamations such as "Putain!" or vulgar words such as "connasse" said by Cathy Marie to express her antipathy towards Lyna Deletto, the gourmet Chef.

In moments of tension on television, familiar language like "What's that thing?" / "Who is that idiot?" or "I'm screwed" or simply "What the hell are you doing here?"

Overall, a language that reflects well the everyday life and origins of migrants.

A fight against prejudice:

- Lorenzo Cardi (the director of the migrants shelter) questions Cathy Marie about the right of migrants to eat well.
- Cathy Marie later denigrates the prejudice of the African migrant associated with football.
- Cathy Marie ensures that her authority is not hindered by religion (Muslim implied - see section Violence)
- A vague mention of the dangers of leaving the shelter: Djibril wears a brand name cap and possesses a sum of money which implies an illegal activity

A very touching part in the film: the young migrants talk about their origins at Lyna Deletto's restaurant. They often express their love for the family and their mother by saying that they miss them.

VIOLENCE

There is no physical violence. Lorenzo, the director, is injured by a ball when playing with migrants from the shelter. We do not see the wound at all, but he is limping and walks with crutches.

Psychological violence occurs between Cathy Marie and Djibril, the aspiring football player, who does not admit taking orders from a woman. The clash between the two could lead to a dangerous stall from Djibril.

This enmity is reminiscent of the one between Cathy Marie and Lyna Deletto who does not respect her partner's recipes.

NUDITY

Nothing to report

SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Nothing to report

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

The film is crossed by **tension** depending on the characters and the circumstances.

1) Cathy Marie:

- quarrels with Lyna Deletto, "her leader" because she doesn't respect her
- is worried because she can't find work
- must adapt to the working conditions of the shelter

2) Lorenzo:

- He doesn't succeed with placing young people in an apprentice CAP (Qualification Certificate) to avoid deportation
- He is firm with Cathy Marie so that she fits into the spirit of the shelter.

3) The wait for the results of bone and tooth analyzes of migrants to determine their age

- The expulsion of Djibril is very moving.

4) The Cook's contest to win €50,000

- Competition, preparations and suspense of the results.
- The atmosphere of the live filming broadcast.

The humanism of the movie:

- Lorenzo loves the teenagers of the shelter. He does everything to keep them in France, hence his efforts to create a CAP school. (Qualification Certificate)
- Sabine is also devoted to the teenagers of the shelter: her teaching and her actions radiate love and courage.

- Cathy Marie also grows fond of those teenagers : she will do everything to help them stay in France and educate them. She even participates in Lyna Deletto's Cook competition, who she doesn't value very much.
- The film depicts a youth of sympathetic migrants who only seek to integrate and be useful to their families.

The actors' feat:

Excerpt from the press kit -

<https://medias.unifrance.org/medias/64/197/247104/presse/la-brigade-dossier-de-presse-francais.pdf>

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS / CASTING

“The casting of young people took place from July to October 2020 in various Parisian reception associations.

(...)”

“I didn't give them the script, just told the story in broad outline. I wanted to keep their sincerity and their progressive discovery of Cathy Marie's character.

(...)”

“And if they learned a little from us, we learned a lot from them during the shooting: they had a respect for the team, punctuality, an incredible discipline, an awareness of how lucky they are to be in France. They are the very embodiment of what I wanted to highlight with the film, they have the desire, the courage and the skills to manage to integrate: they are the strength of "La Brigade"

PICTURES FROM THE MOVIE



Lorenzo and Cathy Marie set the record straight

Cathy Marie and Sabine are going to get along



Cathy Marie teaches young immigrants



La Brigade - young migrants



The brigade rejoices