



Café De Flore

Autumn
Season
2012

Release: 2011

Cert (UK): 15

Runtime: 120 mins

Director: Jean-Marc Valee

Cast: Kevin Parent, Evelyne Brochu, Helene Florent, Vanessa Paradis and Marin Gerrier

Country/Language: Canada, French with English Sub-titles

The story as seen by writer/director Jean-Marc Vallée:



Cafe de Flore is a love story about people separated by time and place but connected in profound and mysterious ways. The film chronicles the parallel fates of Jacqueline, a young mother with a disabled son in 1960s Paris, and Antoine, a recently-divorced, successful DJ in present day Montreal.

What binds the two stories together is love. Antoine, early 40s, seems to have it all: a thriving career, two beautiful daughters, partner Rose, with whom he is passionately in love. However, nothing is perfect and Antoine's ex-wife Carole remains devastated by their recent separation and her hold on reality has been gradually slipping away. Her dreams are haunted by two recurrent figures - Jacqueline, a young woman, and Laurent, her Down Syndrome - disabled son.

We find Jacqueline and Laurent in 1960s Paris abandoned by her husband. From the moment Laurent is born she promises herself to give him a "normal" life full of happiness. For years she fulfills that promise watching over his every waking moment. The, one day at school Laurent befriends Véronique, another Down Syndrome child, forever changing things between mother and son.



Carole, meanwhile, is still tormented by hallucinations of Jacqueline and Laurent. She attempts to suppress them before seeking out the help of a spiritual guide who leads her to believe that they are previous incarnations of her and Antoine who are attempting to send her a warning. When she senses their story could end tragically, Carole realizes she will have to choose a different path. In that moment, she has to decide whether the agony of heartbreak is too much to bear or if she can let go of her pain and move on with her life.