



MOMMY

Autumn
Season
2015

Release: 2014

Cert (UK): 15

Language: French and English

Runtime: 139 mins

Director: Xavier Dolan

Writer: Xavier Dolan

Cinematographer: André Turpin

Cast: Anne Dorval, Antoine-Olivier Pilon, Suzanne Clément



'The fifth feature film from Xavier Dolan, 26-year-old Quebec-born director. It is a tremendously acted, heartfelt, formally inventive movie.

Dorval and Pilon, mother and son, do have a very funny comedy double act

and I laughed out loud at their brutal, emotional screaming matches, which degenerate into an ambiguously violent embrace of resentful reconciliation. Some of the people round me in the auditorium were laughing; some were shocked and bemused – all entirely legitimate responses.

Pilon's face is extraordinary. In a flash, he's a gurning blond gargoyle; in another flash, he's superbly, cherubically handsome; and, in another flash, he's a baby or a chimp. Die has a modified rock-chick dress sense unchanged from her 20s: she's a looker, but senses that nowadays people could be looking for the wrong reasons, and it's dawning on her that the badass routine works only when people fancy you. She is struggling to find work, and money is now an overwhelming worry. Her relationship with Kyla is heartbreaking. As the bond with Steve becomes more difficult and tenuous and she begins to imagine a future without him, her friendship with the woman over the road is more important and their final dialogue is agonising to watch.

Dolan presents the film in a 1:1 aspect ratio, a perfect square (although tricks of the eye make it look more narrow a view than it actually presents). This is even more extreme in its boxiness than the old "Academy ratio" most of us know from sound films of Hollywood up until the early 1950s. In theory this framing intends to trap the viewer into the hemmed-in dimensions of the characters' life options, and as such, one could argue that it serves that function well.' – Largely from Peter Bradshaw and RogerEbert.com