

SHORT EXTRACTS FROM MARIEKE's FRENCH PRESS RELEASE (MK2 and st André des Arts in Paris 28/03/2012)

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The story of a feminine reconstruction. One has to taste the paradoxal and bewitching charm of Sophie Schoukens' first film.

A film with depth and panache.

The film seduces as it gallantly assumes the 'belgitude' of its director

Thierry Méranger, CAHIERS DU CINEMA

There is the face of the actress Hande Kodja, woman and child both melancholic and light. We will not forget. There the song of Brel "Marieke". Unforgettable. There is also a city, Brussels, so pale in its light, so crazy in its disorders, so beautiful in its silences.

This Belgian filmmaker has pledged some great variations on the theme of the look and the memory. /POSITIF Arianne Allard

A small gem /Première

A very fine and delicate film with an intriguing atmosphere / Les fiches du cinéma

Marieke from Jacques Brel is embodied (and here the verb makes sense) by Hande Kodja, an actress as bright as its role; a prodigious blend of innocence and maturity . A film that takes all the risks and gives an unusual depth to this little chocolate factory worker that needs to exorcise her past to finally sketch the contours of a new future. Do not miss this beautiful film about the risk of living and loving... /Nouvel Observateur

A very successful first film made in the cool mists of the flatlands./TROIS COULEURS

A very endearing first film /Le Canard enchaîné D.F

A very dense feminine portrait /Pariscope

Unclassifiable filmmaker. A raw and singular film./ L'Express

Assisted by Alain Marcoen, the cameraman of the Dardenne brothers, Sophie Schoukens delivers a moving first film, far from the usual belgian absurd humor but still **very close to a certain "belgitude", indefinable, and full of a gentle melancholy and almost endearing lethal. Marieke is afraid to love as many of us are ... A very courageous film . / Il était une fois le cinéma J-M Méjean.**

Marieke in its scriptfase had all of a creepy movie except that Sophie Schoukens who signs here her first feature film, manages to carve in the wan light of Belgium a highly delicate, modest and original tale . **MARIEKE floats somewhere between hyper-realism and philosophical parable: On grief, the transition into adulthood, the relationship between mother and daughter, paternal lack, loneliness**

The fable of the girl-who-tried-to-pick-the-pieces-of-its-life flows very freely against the background of the famous Jacques Brel song. Just like her main character who knows how to sublimate the old man she loves and photographs, Sophie Schoukens manages to magnify her script story into strong and haunting images.To direct a simple and beautiful drama.
/TIMEOUT.fr ***** Tania Brimson

Delicate and sensitive movie. Both main actors Hande Kodja and Jan Declair both extraordinarily intense. /TOUTE LA CULTURE.com Olivia Leboyer

Marieke is a role of beautiful complexity. Hande Kodja embodies her with an amazing blend of strength and weakness. / studio ciné live

A story of women and femininity. A lot of modesty, great tenderness. Breath, lightness and joy of living ...

a director with a very promising future and a young actress to follow.../GRAND ECART.fr
Stéphanie Amigues

A genuine aesthetic quest lives in this film. And its journey towards the confines of the afterlife gives this inaugural movie an almost mystical dimension. / La règle du jeu, E.carpentier

Sophie Schoukens delivers here her first feature film and manages to carve in the dim light of Belgium a modest, felted and very delicate movie.

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