



## BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

### **Misericordia** (15)

Director: Alain Guiraudie

Starring: Félix Kyzyl, Catherine Frot, Jacques Develay

France/Spain/Portugal, 2024, 1 hour 43 minutes, French + English subtitles

Jérémie's visit back to his hometown for his boss's funeral takes an unexpected turn, after a mysterious disappearance occurs in the village. Upon deciding to stay for a few days with Martine, his boss's widow, a series of seemingly worsening events take place.

Director Alain Guiraudie has an evident passion for folk culture, stemming from his experiences growing up in a French farming family. When asked if this film had any direct link to his past, Guiraudie answered *"Yes, I looked back a lot on my youth. I've put a lot of my teenage feelings into this film [...] cinema allows me to mix my experience with the great history of cinema and the world. It's a way of universalising my personal story."*

*Misericordia* explores a variety of genres, including film noir. Guiraudie has stated *"as far as film noirs are concerned, [Alfred] Hitchcock and Fritz Lang are always a reference for me."* Crime and tragedy are also explored in the film, with hints of dark comedy. Guiraudie has expressed his potent admiration for late filmmaker Ingmar Bergman, particularly his *"use of great mercy."* This links directly to the film itself, with the title meaning mercy, compassion and clemency. Guiraudie's approach to established moral rules are particularly focused on remorse and forgiveness, shedding light on how far love of a neighbour can (or should) go. *"Are we really innocent of the world's disasters?"* Guiraudie asks.

Preview courtesy of New Wave Films

Quotes from Image Film Distribution.

Notes by Floss Johnston

If you like **MISERICORDIA**, you may enjoy:

**THE SUMMER WITH CARMEN** In this sexy, sun-drenched comedy, best friends Demos and Nikitas about to embark on the most meta movie adventure ever.

**WHEN AUTUMN FALLS** Ever-inventive, French auteur François Ozon (8 *Women, Swimming Pool, Potiche, Frantz*) returns with a twisty, bittersweet story about age, youth, the past and the art of breaking the rules. In a picturesque Burgundy village.