



## BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

### **ON FALLING** (15)

Director: Laura Carreira

Starring: Joana Santos, Inês Vaz, Piotr Sikora

UK/Portugal, 2024, English/Portuguese + English Subtitles

Laura Carreira delivers a sobering dose of social realism in this exploration of working for an online shop. Aurora (Joana Santos) is a picker in a busy Scottish warehouse, where hundreds of items are sent out a day. After work, she hardly has the time or energy for interaction or self-fulfillment. This film explores the isolation and struggle inherent in demanding jobs; how capitalist systems seem to be ripping us apart, keeping us as individuals instead of united.

While this is Carreira's feature debut, she has been earning momentum in the last few years with her nominated shorts *Red Hill* (2018), and *The Shift* (2020), the former winning her the New Visions awards at the Edinburgh International Film Festival. Continuing to tackle the dehumanising and expendable nature of jobs, Carreira shifts her focus to pickers at warehouses, saying "*exploitation isn't new, now it just comes in other forms. Businesses are finding other ways of extracting more... profit and work from people.*" The film had initially been conceived as a documentary. However, this wouldn't materialise: "*of course companies weren't up for that... I wanted to ask their workers how they felt about their job and I wanted to film them working, but I was never welcomed.*"

Hailed as potentially ushering in a new wave of real working class stories in British cinema, Carreira has achieved much acclaim, winning best director at San Sebastián Film Festival and best debut at the London Film Festival. Peter Bradshaw said "*it reminded me of the excellent Sorry We Missed You by Ken Loach...*" Joana Santos's lead performance has also gained admiration: "*She channels a hesitant, insecure person who takes a measure of herself internally before speaking,*" Sophie Monks Kaufman writes in Indiewire. A reminder of how the system is fundamentally broken; built to keep big companies making profit instead of rewarding the hard workers that keep them going.

Quotes from 'Entrevista a Laura Carreira "On Falling" (S.O.) 2024' and 'Laura Carreira introduces On Falling' by Jamie Dunn

Notes compiled by Stuart Newnham (The Courtyard/Radix Film Club)

If you like **ON FALLING**, you may enjoy:

**WANDA** Wanda, having recently left her husband, goes hitchhiking through Pennsylvania and meets a thief who takes her under his wing. Carreira has named this as an influence.

**HARD TRUTHS** For another character study, Mike Leigh tells the story of Pansy, who struggles with anger and depression in this contemporary world.