



BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

FULL TIME (15)

Director: Eric Gravel

Starring: Laure Calamy, Anne Suarez, Geneviève Mnich, Cyril Gueï

France, 2021, 1 hour 28 minutes SUBTITLES

Julie, played by French actress, Laura Calamy (*Call My Agent*), works as head chambermaid in a 5-star hotel, but when an interview for a superior position lands in her lap, she senses the opportunity to improve the lives of herself and her children. "It's a propulsively intense piece of filmmaking" (**VARIETY**).

Full Time (A Plein Temps) is Director Eric Gravel's second film, after his debut, *Crash Test Aglaé (2017)* which also dealt largely with workplace stresses. *Full Time* is ripe with tension, but is kept mercifully short at under one and a half hours. Nothing if not frenetic, Julie is constantly on the run, her day-to-day existence crying out for rest and recuperation. To any who have felt like their many spinning plates are inevitably preparing to drop, they will find a kindred spirit in the luckless, Julie.

Many reviewers have drawn similarities between this film and those of the Safdie Brothers, with simmering tension, whipped up by a beating score, reminiscent of *Uncut Gems (2019)*, as well as another workplace Drama, *Boiling Point (2021)*. *Full Time* is a tiring tale of the desperate life of a single parent, where domestic life can seem just as tiring as the working one, leading to 'breathless human drama' (**CINEUROPA**). At home, Julie is left to feel like a shell of herself, whilst at work she is on the outside looking in, able only to peep at the private lives of hyper-rich Parisians, whilst forced to make ends meet in the exurbs of town.

Whilst working at Edinburgh International Film Festival, I was fortunate to spend time with director, Eric Gravel, where he talked at length about his joy that *Full Time* is finding success with UK audiences, given our strong history of socially conscious, political filmmaking (think 2-time Palme d'Or winner, Ken Loach). Set against the backdrop of a transport strike, the scenery, whilst French, will definitely rancor with many Brits. Much like the sensation of gridlock, *Full Time* is a film that presents the horrible impression of time slipping away between our fingers.

Preview courtesy of Parkland Entertainment

Notes compiled by Sam Briggs