One Film, One Federation Pedagogical Guide

9 MONTH STRETCH (9 MOIS FERME)
A film by Albert Dupontel
France/2013/82 minutes/Comedy
Screenplay: Albert Dupontel
Cast: Sandrine Kiberlain, Albert Dupontel, Nicolas Marié

With support from the Cultural Services of the French Embassy
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STORYLINE

A comedy with a ‘twist’

Judge Ariane Felder, a judge of strict moral character is pregnant. This is a surprise as this examining magistrate is an uptight moralizer and ambitious judge with no aptitude for love, marriage or children. When co-workers get her intoxicated at a New Year’s Eve party, Judge Felder has a wild night on the town without the slightest recollection... and no idea of the forthcoming consequences.
A comedy with a ‘twist’

When DNA tests reveal that not only is she pregnant but that the perp is really a “perp,” and none other than the violent and internationally renowned Hannibal Lecter-ish eyeball-eating burglar, Bob Nolan, Ariane takes an unusual course to rectify what happened.
WHO IS ALBERT DUPONTEL

• Albert Dupontel was born on January 11, 1964 in Saint Germain-en-laye, Seine-et-Laye, France as Philippe Guillaume. He began his career as a stand-up comic.
• He is an actor, writer and director best known for Bernie (1996), Irreversible (2002), 9 month stretch (2013).
• The upcoming film Au revoir là haut also directed by and starring Albert Dupontel.

Photo credit: Wikipedia
DISCUSSION: STYLE

• What type of comedy is this film?
• Does it remind you of a specific style you have seen before?
• Might Dupontel's style elicit Monty Python’s and if so, how?
• What different endings could you imagine for the film?
CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Amusez-vous – our questions are a bit “tongue-in-cheek”...

• Is Judge Ariane Felder, a self-proclaimed celibate career woman on the rise, a funny, believable character or is the director (Dupontel) guilty of the heinous crime of unfunny sexism?

• Bob, the “perp” and power grinder wielding burglar accused of dismembering his victim and concluding the caper with Hannibal Lecter-ish eyeball-eating antics is the father of the booze-fueled consequences of Judge Ariane Felder’s New Year’s Eve festivities. How does the director and actor (Dupontel) portray the role as criminal, defendant and father? Does the film give the character of Bob Nolan credibility?

• What do you think of the character of Attorney Trolos?

• Where does the famous actor Jean Dujardin appear, and are there subtle cameo appearances by other celebrities?
QUESTIONS AND AREAS OF THOUGHT (with humor. . .)

1. Is the film sexist in any way? What does the audience think of the way this intelligent woman is portrayed?

2. Do you think that it is appropriate for a film made in 2013 and directed by Dupontel to portray a successful woman as a hormonal mess with accompanying hysteria and sitcom-like behavior based on her fetal misfortune?
QUESTIONS AND AREAS OF THOUGHT

3. 9 Month Stretch (9 mois ferme) won multiple awards including the César for Best Actress (Sandrine Kiberlain) and Best Original Screenplay (Albert Dupontel). Did you find the film funny and worthy of the highest French film awards?

4. Did anyone in the audience see this film and reflect on their own poor life choices or the consequences of inappropriate behavior?

Photo credit: Wikipedia
• This is the first year of One Film, One Federation based on the generous support of The Cultural Services of the French Embassy.

• The Federation of AF Chapters in the United States would welcome suggestions for newly released films, classics or documentaries for the 2018 One Film, One Federation Selection.

• Please send your suggestions/notes/comments to federation@afusa.org