TAMARA

Original Version: French with English subtitles

Director: Alexandre Castagnetti
Release date: October 26, 2016
Genre: Comedy, teen movie
Country of origin: France
Length: 100min.

CANADIAN PREMIERE

SYNOPSIS

Tamara, 15 year-old and curvy, is determined to get rid of her "fat" label as she enters a new school. In order to overcome her complex, she wages a bet with her best girlfriend that she will date the first guy who walks through the classroom door. Surprise! His name is Diego, he is new to the school and he is so handsome that all the girls swoon over him. At school the competition is fierce. At home Tamara is subjected to the advice of 8 year-old Yoli, coaching her on how to attract Diego. Yoli is the daughter of her mom's new partner. By the way, her mom Amandine is a caring, vigilant but strict mother.
What is Tamara to do then between her family trying to run her life and those tricky girls trotting out their tiny bikinis and gym wear?
Tamara may not guess it but life is full of surprises!!!

FILM REVIEWS

An adaptation of the comic strip by the same title by Zidrou and Darasse, this comedy aimed at teens, tells us how Tamara, 16 years of age, will overcome all the classic issues linked to her age – physical complex, conflicting relationship with her parents, teasing from other students, etc. – to experience her first love encounter with the school handsome guy.
(Translation from Stéphanie Ayache's article on
https://www.leblogducinema.com/critiques-films/critique-tamara-840997/

*Adaptation de la BD éponyme de **Zidrou** et **Darasse**, cette comédie destinée aux adolescents vient nous raconter comment Tamara, 16 ans, va surmonter tous les problèmes classiques rencontrés à son âge – complexes physiques, relations conflictuelles avec ses parents, moqueries des autres élèves, etc. – pour vivre sa première relation amoureuse avec le beau gosse du lycée.*

An excellent adaptation of the comic strip with a talented cast who does «weigh» much!
A very pleasant teen comedy. A way of discovering the «weight» of love!
One can guess that (however) the relationships between teenagers are here fairly good in spite of some dirty tricks and tensions. We are still in good company. We are aware that unfortunately there are bullying instances in particular that are much more dramatic than the one touched on here. Also an opportunity to see the film with family (even if the teen target audience would choose to see it without the adults present) or with other adults so that they can discuss it later together.
(Translated from http://www.cinecure.be/Tamara)

Excellente adaptation de la bande dessinée avec un casting de talent mais moins de poids !
Une très agréable comédie adolescente. Une façon de découvrir le « poids » de l'amour !
On se doute cependant que les relations entre adolescents sont ici de bon aloi malgré les coups vaches et les tensions. On est encore entre gens de bonne compagnie. On sait malheureusement qu'il est des situations de harcèlement, notamment, bien plus dramatiques que celle évoquée ici. Occasion aussi de voir le film en famille (même si la « cible » adolescente préférera le voir sans les adultes) ou entre adultes pour en parler ensuite ensemble.

Adapted from a successful comic strip, here is a film that should attract a teenage audience. On top of the bill for her first part, the very charming Héloïse Martin is perfect. Great entertainment.
(Translated from Pierre Vavasseur's article in ***Le Parisien***
http://www.leparisien.fr/culture-loisirs/ronde-et-alors-26-10-2016-6251910.php)

Adapté d'une bande dessinée à succès, voilà un film qui devrait attirer les adolescents. En tête d'affiche pour son premier rôle, la très charmante Héloïse Martin est parfaite. Une bonne récréation.

The teen comedy genre has been super well defined for a very long time and has its very strong references, its myths. From *Breakfast Club* to *Beaux Gosses* through *American Pie*, the competition is fierce. But a few things still remain to be told.
Yet, and we are the first ones to be surprised, *Tamara* is a good film. And perhaps one of the best teen comedies from recent memory.

(Translated from Christophe Folzer's article
in http://www.ecranlarge.com/films/966199-tamara/critiques)

Le genre de la comédie teen est ultra balisé depuis fort longtemps et a ses valeurs sûres, ses légendes. De* Breakfast Club *aux* Beaux Gosses *en passant par* American Pie*, la concurrence est rude. Mais il reste encore quelques petites choses à dire.
Pourtant, et nous sommes les premiers surpris, **Tamara** *est un bon film. Voire même l'une des meilleures comédies teen de mémoire récente.*

DETAILS

LANGUAGE

In the film the school teens speak an everyday language that is ordinary with its usual expletives ("shit" mostly). Words like "*conne*" or "*conneries*" are mildly translated by words like "dumb" or "idiot" or not at all.
As the girls compete for the attention of Diego, the desirable new comer, they insult each other: "bitch" or "bitches", "ho" or "whore" are said a few times
However some words have a sexual reference.
When Tamara dresses up as Amy Winehouse, Amandine, her mother says the costume reminds her of hookers.
Wagner pursues Tamara. He steals her mobile password and tries to set her up with one of his friends alluding to a sexual encounter with words like "puceau" (virgin in English) or expressions like "I popped the cherry".
When Jelilah finds out that her "boyfriend" is gay she is very happy indeed because she enjoys the friendship without having "to kiss" him.
Because Tamara is self-conscious about her curves, a few words refer to her big breasts, her butt (move your butt) without real vulgarity.
When Tamara orders a drink like Coca-Cola, she is asked if she wants a diet coke, which she finds offensive.

VIOLENCE

There is no violence to speak of.

NUDITY
None

SEXUAL ACTIVITY
Tamara is experiencing her first love. It is alluded and not quite clear whether she has slept with Diego. All we see is that she wakes up wrapped in a sheet. Later her father mentions that Tamara had sex with a boy.
At the end of the film, Diego and Tamara kiss passionately at the airport as Diego has to fly back to his country for the summer.

HORROR
None

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT
On a **comedic tone**, the film deals with teen classic preoccupations: love, friendship, popularity, parents, physical appearance.
Before Tamara overcomes her plumpness complex, she has to jump over some hurdles.
Wagner is a classmate who has a crush on Tamara: he can't help spying on her with his mobile phone to the point that he gets her into trouble.
On Halloween night he posts a very brief clip on Tamara partying and rocking implying that she drank and smoked. Not only Tamara's classmates mock her but her mother Amandine is unhappy because she specifically told her daughter not to drink nor smoke.
When her mom picks her up the morning after the party, Tamara is throwing up (brief image).
Amandine is a controlling mother setting rules in the life of Tamara.
Tamara's female classmates are the competition: they laugh at her ample curves.

Tamara is surrounded by a lot of **positive people**:
- her best friend Jelilah who supports her
- her mother's new partner Chico who understands her
- her new sister Yoli who is working at bringing Tamara and Diego together
- her mother Amandine who loves her and only wants the best for her
- her father finally comes out of his selfish shell to be more present

Tamara and Diego share **solid family values**, which creates a closer bond. At the same time as Tamara, the audience finds out that Diego looks after his brothers while his mom is out working. Diego is then more **endearing** as the caricature of the good-looking guy fades.

Social drinking especially between Amandine and her neighbor and during meals between adults. A very brief scene when Diego and Tamara share a joint.

Although Tamara is not seen drinking, it is implied that she had some “vodka apple” breaking her mother’s rules not to drink.

https://branchesculture.com/2016/07/30/polemique-cinema-tamara-maigrie-diktat-beaute-polemique/

http://leblogdetamara.blogspot.ca/

http://leplus.nouvelobs.com/contribution/1547402-la-bd-tamara-adaptee-en-film-les-actrices-rondes-n-existaient-pas-ce-sera-sans-moi.html

IMAGES OF THE FILM

All photos on this page are from: http://en.unifrance.org/movie/41179/tamara

Tamara's family (from left to right): Amandine, Philippe-André, Yoli, Chico, Valérie & husband

Yoli and Chico her dad

Tamara and Jelilah her best friend

Diego on his first day at school

Wagner and Tamara's classmates

All photos on this page come from the Allociné website

Tamara's costume for Halloween

Tamara and Diego on her birthday at her dad's place

Happy ending: Tamara is liberated from her complex