

QUOTES FROM THE FRENCH WEEKLY PRESS

LE JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE - February 2007

« Revisiting the Piaf myth, Olivier Dahan's mind-blowing biopic wins you over with its strong narrative and challenges the official story. Marion Cotillard, whose bending down makes her great, will take your breath away. It's full of nerve, emotion, passion, pain, love – you name it. »

LES ECHOS DU WEEK-END – Annie Coppermann – February 2007

« Piaf is brought back to life.

A stooping, waif-like, balding figure – but still on stage –, Edith Piaf appears before us, with her plain black dress; she starts singing and we all buy it. Marion Cotillard, who's literally brought her back to life, gives a riveting performance.

La Vie en rose will grab you from the opening scene, no matter how reluctant you may be. It probably has a lot to do with the singer's actual voice. But it definitely has to do with the actress's intense, dedicated performance and Dahan's brilliant filmmaking – while daringly choosing artificial settings, the director has made a truly earnest portrayal of the artist. »

TELE CINE OBS – February 2007

« A visual splendor, the film will win you over with the lifelike performance from Marion Cotillard miming to the singer's voice – the actress is just terrific! And when the artist who allegedly "had no regrets" is dying, Cotillard is heart-rending. »

PARIS MATCH – Alain Spira – February 2007

« Piaf is an institution all on her own, whose point could have easily been missed in a film. Olivier Dahan has woven flashbacks together into the script like a braid without ever confusing or boring the audience.

Marion Cotillard, who's barely recognizable, doesn't just play Piaf – she totally inhabits the role.

Jean-Pierre Martins (a former saxophonist with the Silmarils rock band) as Marcel Cerdan is a real discovery. This star-studded epic's emotional impact relies on one single custom-designed special effect – lip-syncing. When Cotillard sings with Edith's voice, she takes us for a ride and we watch her in awe. So when this thrilling movie ends, we too let the crowd sweep us off our feet! »

LE POINT – François-Guillaume Lorrain – February 2007

« La Vie en rose disproves the argument that the French film industry is no match for Hollywood. Congratulations to Marion Cotillard whose performance has us enraptured. »

VSD – Patrick Besson – February 2007

« Olivier Dahan has brilliantly portrayed the singer's life.

La Vie en rose's Marion Cotillard is... she just is. She is Piaf. She keeps growing younger and older, and back again. She shows all that she can do – and she can do it all. »

A NOUS PARIS – February 2007

« This riveting movie is a portrayal of Piaf, the "Kid Sparrow" and, by the same token, a fascinating portrayal of a fascinating artist. While Olivier Dahan's camerawork convincingly brings back images from the past, Marion Cotillard in the title role is just mind-boggling. So much so that besides the actress's uncanny resemblance to the singer, Cotillard has brought us back her very soul. »

FIGAROSCOPE – Marie-Noëlle Tranchant – February 2007

« More than just a biopic, this film is a scattered, heart-rending portrayal of a melodrama heroine who looks like a character from one of her songs. We must praise the moving performance from Marion Cotillard who not only resembles Piaf physically but also shares her guts and soul. The editing is powerful, we can feel the atmosphere and relish in Piaf's hot temper. And to top it all off, the chanteuse's unforgettable, actual voice is as thrilling as ever. »

PARISCOPE – Arno Gaillard – February 2007

« From the production design to the editing, to the brilliant camerawork, to the acting (including Emmanuelle Seigner's heart-wrenching performance), everyone from both cast and crew have done true justice to Piaf and to a unique cinematic experience. A journalist once asked the artist – "What kind of advice would you give to women, men and children?" The lady in her black dress answered "Love, love, love." The film is as heart-rending as the chanteuse whose voice turned silent in October 1963 but whose heart still beats hard and strong. La Vie en rose makes a strong point of it. »

TELERAMA – Jacques Morice – February 2007

« The film readily enhances the legend. What makes this biopic so compelling is that it's lyrical, and even passionate, biased yet accurate. Film director Dahan has done a fine, efficient job. His film highlights key moments like so many snapshots. La Vie en rose keeps moving from a fairy tale to a tragedy. Rise, greatness and fall. Dahan doesn't go from one stage to the next, but he blends them all together, without any chronological order. Dahan's Piaf is a heart-wrenching mystic. What about Cotillard? We're deeply moved by the actress's performance because Cotillard remains true to the spirit of the "Kid Sparrow" – she spares no effort in playing the part. »

MARIE CLAIRE - Catherine Castro – February 2007

« Marion Cotillard is a hell of a "Kid Sparrow"!

We can't just say – "she's done a good job" – but we should say instead that she's mind-boggling, breathtaking, phenomenal. »

PUBLIC – February 2007

« Cotillard gives a royal performance in La Vie en Rose.

Get ready to be overwhelmed by a whirl of emotions! Marion Cotillard's performance will make history. An astounding actress, she inhabits the character so fully, with her expressions and gestures, and her cheeky voice. Marion is Edith no doubt and she won't leave you unscathed. »

MAXI – February 2007

« Marion Cotillard plays the vulnerable iconic figure with great intensity. »

JASMIN – February 2007

« Marion Cotillard works miracles.

While Marion Cotillard's physical transformation is stunning, it is Edith Piaf's feverish passion the actress gets across which is remarkable.

The resemblance is just uncanny. The actress totally inhabits the character.

Nothing can stop the vision of the frail, ailing artist facing her audience for the last time from putting a lump in your throat.

Let's face it – before this film and Marion Cotillard's performance, the artist never had so much presence on screen, and never looked so lively... »

ELLE – Anne Diatkine – February 12, 2007

« Here's a great popular movie that can be relevant to audiences from all walks of life. Marion Cotillard's physical transformation into Edith Piaf just takes your breath away – from her voice to her laughter, to her outline, her arthritis-ridden hands to her gait. The actress disappears into the character. What's endearing is that the story isn't told in chronological order but instead focuses on sensations. The arc of La Vie En Rose follows the artist's emotional life, rather than key landmarks. »

TELE Z – February 12, 2007

« Marion Cotillards beautifully plays Edith Piaf and it takes one hell of an actress to pull off such a performance! This genuine melodrama could earn her a well-deserved French Academy Award for Best Actress! »

TELE 7 JOURS – Julien Barcilon – February 12, 2007

« Olivier Dahan has painstakingly, passionately and delicately achieved a superb portrayal of an artist, between shadow and light. As we find out about the artist's extraordinary life story in the light of her hardships, Olivier Dahan has rightly chosen to tell the story in intertwined chronology. His cinematic achievement relies in essence on the acting. Marion Cotillard's dazzling performance will make history. The actress literally inhabits the part and her resemblance to the artist is stunning – Cotillard doesn't play Piaf, she is Piaf, body and soul. »

TELE STAR – February 2007

« Marion Cotillard's physical transformation is uncanny. »

TELE LOISIRS - Caroline Vié– February 2007

« This is the event movie of early 2007, starring Marion Cotillard. Her genuinely heart-rending performance will make film history. Her dazzling performance brings life to the epic, a combination of a lush historical recreation and an emotion-filled biography. A passionate yet unquestionably sincere landmark movie, La Vie en rose will win you over immediately. »

FEMME ACTUELLE – Xavier Privat - February 2007

« Here's the film we'd all been waiting for! Beyond the film, we've been particularly enthralled by Marion Cotillard's performance. She portrays Piaf between shadow and light. A mesmerizing epic. »

LE JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE – Carlos Gomez– February 2007

« Olivier Dahan has directed a masterpiece about Edith Piaf's life. Cotillard has also etched her way into our memories.

Dahan's rendering of the biography is impressionistic and scattered – its provocative narrative makes it utterly compelling and its articulate writing and structure make it moving. Dahan has achieved a series of stylistic tours-de-force and the lighting design is sophisticated to enhance the characters' souls – until the beautiful climax where Piaf finds out something terrible has happened to Cerdan. A thrilling, breathtaking, hypnotic moment. The whole cast is amazing. As far as Cotillard as "the Kid Sparrow", she puts so much effort in bending down and tensing up that she becomes unquestionably great; she so inhabits the character that she truly shows off Piaf's multi-layered persona. The make-up artist has worked wonders, but behind the mask, there's so much presence, so much work, so much pleasure. And most of all, so much truth. »

LE FIGARO MAGAZINE –Laurence Haloche- February 2007

« Both director Olivier Dahan and his actress have met their challenge by avoiding caricature. To portray the star, Marion Cotillard readily shaved part of her hair and totally plucked her eyebrows. She also surrendered herself to a dream team of make-up artists. But all these tricks cannot account for her transformation. Just like Nicole Kidman as Virginia Woolf in The Hours, the young lady shows some rare talent to get across her

pure passion which runs in her character's blood through and through. We watch Cotillard. And she leaves us mesmerized. »

NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR - Pascal Méridgeau– February 2007

« A beautiful, moving film. Alain Goldman and Olivier Dahan have really met the challenge beyond anyone's expectations. They built up a talented team and gave them leeway to express themselves. The make-up work is flawless and helps Marion Cotillard to throw herself headlong into the intricacies of Piaf's soul – the actress's performance is dazzling, and not just because she successfully avoids the dangerous pitfall of the singing scenes. »

VSD – Olivier Bousquet– February 2007

« Outstanding, spellbinding, astounding... Cotillard's acting has been eliciting an outpouring of superlatives from the media for a few weeks now. The point has been to try to put Marion Cotillard's performance into words. Marion Cotillard learned to approach the mythical figure for three months. She delivers a fascinating performance. Here we go – one more superlative... »

TV GRANDES CHAINES – February 2007

« Dahan's classic, decent filmmaking is wonderfully enhanced by Marion Cotillard's smashing performance and astounding transformation. »

MARIANNE – Danièle Heymann - February 2007

« A popular, mind-blowing "Kid Sparrow."
There's singing and screaming, it's full of life and gut-wrenching, it'll make you cry like the good old tearjerker it is; it appeals to our collective memory, it has nothing to do with a hagiography and it challenges the saying that only the Americans are able to make a true biopic. It's both mind-blowing and popular and it's full of well-written and well-cast characters. Timewise Olivier Dahan's script is a beautiful mess of a script – and rightly so. But then again the film's tour de force is the dying of Marcel Cerdan. It is a talented, dedicated and challenging scene. »

GALA – Jeanne Bordes -January 2007

« It'll sweep you away like a crowd! It'll knock you off your feet like a tribute to love! Marion Cotillard put all her body and soul into an extremely romantic character. The actress amazingly looks like the iconic figure she portrays. »

PLAYBOY – February 2007

« Edith Piaf's stylish, inspired portrayal does justice to who she was. As Piaf, Marion Cotillard will spin your head. »

COSMOPOLITAN - January 2007

« Here's a film that should sweep millions of people off their feet. »

ELLE – August 2006

« Marion Cotillard faced the challenge beautifully – she's just heart-rendingly true. »

PARIS MATCH

« Unforgettable Marion Cotillard. A heart-rending movie experience. »

MADAME FIGARO

« This year's event. Olivier Dahan's positively beautiful, event movie. »