

QUOTES FROM THE GERMAN PRESS

NEWSPAPERS

DIE WELT

« We most certainly have no regrets – the opening film of this year's festival is a wonderful biopic about the life of Piaf.

Now *La Vie en rose* presents us with a dilemma – Piaf's biopic is so deeply emotional, is directed with such command and is so intelligently crafted, that we may well wonder whether we haven't already seen the best film of the festival.

Film director Olivier Dahan lives up to the challenge of helming a biopic about the life of a true artist. He's aware of the pitfalls of the genre. His command of the material is so assured that his filmmaking becomes innovative. Judi Dench, Cate Blanchett and other would-be nominees, beware! The Golden Bear is all but guaranteed for Marion Cotillard... »

BERLINER MORGENPOST

« This year's opening film makes you want to sing – it definitely is the envy of the Cannes film festival. Despite the hardships of Piaf's life, you leave the theatre with a broad smile on your face. Now the thing is: what could possibly follow such a film? And who else could win the Silver Bear for Best Actress?

It's much more than a successful film. It's a double win for Marion Cotillard.

We will definitely miss each and every minute of the film!

It's truly Cotillard's achievement. It's even a double achievement. To start with, she completely embodies this streetwise Joan of Arc. But then again, although she's 31, she's as convincing as an 18-year-old kid as a 47-year-old stooping, wizened wreck of a woman, exhausted by drugs. She should have been awarded the Silver Bear by now. »

B.Z.

« The festival has found its queen since the first day – Marion Cotillard in the competition movie *La Vie en rose*. The opening film is worthy of a world-known festival – it is a great, sumptuous, glamorous film. The premiere of *La Vie en rose*, a French competition movie, is a real treat. Leading lady Marion Cotillard garnered a standing ovation.

The queen of the first day was Marion Cotillard, the French up and coming movie superstar. A wonderful, glamorous opening film. »

TAGESSPIEGEL

« Berlinale Director Dieter Kosslick hasn't been that lucky in picking opening films these past few years. (...) But Kosslick shows he can do better – here's Edith Piaf on world stages, in the bars of Montmartre, at the Paris Olympia, in New York cabarets: good job, Dieter! Fortunately *La Vie en rose* isn't just a Cinemascope movie, a period film packed with superb production design and costumes, and with Piaf's 24 classics – it's much more than that. The traditionally chronological order of the drama has been avoided. Cotillard has fearlessly approached the Piaf mythical figure, and she has made her human. Be prepared for a roller coaster ride of emotions. (...)

Cotillard's each and every glance and gesture amazingly contributes to the unpredictable nature of the film. Over the film's 140 minutes, we experience a great deal of anxiety, and we're faced with a lot of make-up and several masks of Edith Piaf's tragic life. It sometimes may seem over-the-top, but it doesn't matter. What would the festival be like – were it not for the art of exaggeration and hyperbole? What would the Berlinale be like – were it not for a sparkling combination of glamor and humanity? »

SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

« Dahan's portrayal of the artist's life is both individual and universal. (...) La Vie en rose's tension primarily comes from the balance between respect and arrogance, between distance and closeness. This also goes for the leading lady Marion Cotillard who, at first sight, looked too sweet and girlish to play the part. But she puts so much effort in her acting that she wins the audience over, and we sometimes feel really close to her – even though she may spurn us bluntly the next minute. With the production design, costumes and camerawork, Olivier Dahan has helmed an imperfect-looking film – but that's exactly what Edith Piaf's life is all about. "No, I have no regrets," she would no doubt tell us. »

ABENDZEITUNG - MUNICH

« Marion Cotillard is stunning as Edith Piaf in Olivier Dahan's biopic. »

BILD (National edition)

« A voice from the street becomes the voice of French singing. Genius, madness, outpourings of love – and Gérard Depardieu. Whoever loves Piaf is bound to love this film. »

B. Z. (Berlin) February 22, 2007

« Marion Cotillard is dazzling as Piaf. Marion Cotillard is grandiose as Piaf. »

B. Z. (Berlin) February 9, 2007

« It's amazing how vibrantly and passionately Cotillard, as yet unknown in Germany, plays the "Kid Sparrow," from a street kid to a cancer-ridden old lady. Terrific! The film will give you goose bumps, make you cry and laugh. Cotillard is definitely likely to win the Silver Bear for Best Actress!

The festival has found its queen since the first day – Marion Cotillard in the competition movie La Vie en rose. »

FRANKFURTER NEUE PRESSE

The challenge of making a film of Piaf's unusual life story was, on the one hand, not to stand too close to the main character who overshadows everybody else and, on the other hand, to avoid looking down on or patronizing the character – in other words, to avoid anything awkward. That's exactly what French director Olivier Dahan has done so successfully. His actress Marion Cotillard works a true miracle of optical and acoustic illusion by imitating Piaf's expressions and gestures under her thin eyebrows and by picking up her unsteady gait and stooping figure. A must-see.

HAMBURGER ABENDBLATT - February 22, 2007

« With 31-year old actress Marion Cotillard, Edith Piaf has found an outstanding performer. Even though she doesn't actually sing Piaf's songs, her face expressions and gestures are perfect, for both the young Piaf and the 47-year old, sick and dying artist. (...) La Vie en rose is a glamorous, spectacular epic. Show-biz doesn't just celebrate one of its biggest stars, but itself. It's a story often told but one worth retelling. »

KÖLNER STADTANZEIGER - February 22, 2007

« The credit especially goes to actress Marion Cotillard for making La Vie en rose so emotionally convincing. She successfully plays the legendary figure from the age of 18 to her premature death at 47. Despite a star-studded supporting cast, including Emmanuelle Seigner or Gérard Depardieu, and terrific child-actors, the film is, in essence, a glamorous one-woman-show. »

LEIPZIGER VOLKSZEITUNG - February 22, 2007

« A sparkling gem of a film. The film focuses on Piaf and includes a lot of nostalgic shots of life in the gutter, of glamour and singing. Olivier Dahan made it just fine. (...) This is a character role for Marion Cotillard who starts out beautiful and radiant and then turns stooping and ageing. She plays the part unselfconsciously, as she just follows the character's development. A wonderful performance! »

SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG

« From a great many scattered pieces, Dahan has recreated an artist's life which shows both individual and general values. (...) La Vie en rose's tension primarily comes from the balance between respect and arrogance, between distance and closeness. This also goes for the leading lady Marion Cotillard who, at first sight, looked too pretty and feminine to play bony Piaf. (...) But she nonetheless conveys emotions beautifully, and we sometimes feel really close to her – even though she may spurn us bluntly the next minute. With the production design, costumes and camerawork, Olivier Dahan has helmed an imperfect-looking film – but that's exactly what Edith Piaf's life is all about. »

WAZ

« A superb opening film. Playing such an important figure was a challenge. Marion Cotillard – who just turned 31 – does an outstanding job. »

BERLINER MORGENPOST/BERLIN LIVE, February 22, 2007

« Director Olivier Dahan knows all the demands made of films about singers' lives and fulfils them too: but he also knows all the traps, and he avoids them with the sure-footedness of a sleepwalker and incredible innovation. »

BILD (BUNDES-AUSGABE)

« Genius, madness, love excess and Gérard Depardieu. If you love Piaf, you'll love this film. »

DONAUKURIER, February 22, 2007

« This is a monumental film, which Olivier Dahan has made about the life of the “Paris Sparrow”. La Vie En Rose – brilliant pictures, sumptuous camera sweeps, and a love of detail displayed in the extravagant sets. (..) Marion Cotillard plays this woman and her faults – both physical and spiritual – with dedication and passion. With an obsession for detail, she gets the crackling voice and the obstinate movements of the chanteuse just right and gives her role great authenticity. (..) The film is emotional and moving because it tells of an emotional and moving life. »

FRANKFURTER NEUE PRESSE

« The difficulty in filming the unusual life story of Piaf lies in avoiding being sycophantic to the all-dominating main character while at the same time not regarding her with condescension or pomposity, in other words: avoiding all embarrassment. But the French director Olivier Dahan has managed to do precisely that. His lead actress Marion Cotillard brings about a miracle of visual and aural deception when she imitates the mimicry of Piaf beneath those thin eyebrows, her unsure gait or her hunchbacked posture. »

LEIPZIGER VOLKSZEITUNG, February 22, 2007

« Olivier Dahan makes a first-rate job of this – right through to the tear-jerking finale.(..) A classic role for Marion Cotillard, who is beautiful and radiant at the beginning and bent up and over-aged at the end. She doesn't over-emphasise all this – she simply develops it from inside the character. Simply wonderful! »

LEIPZIGER VOLKSZEITUNG, February 9, 2007

« She is Piaf. And she is grandiose in this demanding role. (..) Her name: Marion Cotillard. »

MANNHEIMER MORGEN, February 22, 2007

« ... visually powerful and with a desire for serious emotions. »

RHEINISCHE POST

« Marion Cotillard makes this production an event. »

SÜDWEST PRESSE

« ... starring the brilliant Marion Cotillard. An emotional movie that will leave no dry eyes in the house. »

ABENDZEITUNG MÜNCHEN

« Marion Cotillard is brilliant as Edith Piaf in Olivier Dahan's film biography.

He [Olivier Dahan] obviously wanted to avoid making a traditional biopic, so he decided to zap constantly between dismal childhood, stardom and deathbed elegies. This demands great concentration from the audience. But thanks to the good star ensemble, especially Marion Cotillard, who portrays Piaf right down to the finest nuances of her soul, and the chansons, Dahan has succeeded in making a film that is still entertaining – especially for those who like being sentimental from time to time. »

BERLINER ZEITUNG

« Edith Piaf's life of suffering provided a long-winded opening to the Berlin Film Festival.

Regardless of the predominantly chronological narrative, the director makes the life story of chanson legend Edith Piaf an astonishingly rumbling clash of pain-filled episodes.(..) If you were cold-hearted, you could possibly see this as a long-winded biopic that turns out to be really clumsy in setting up an arc of tension but still manages to paint a vivid picture of a great era of popular music – you could, if it weren't for the outstanding, enchanting performance of lead actress Marion Cotillard.

... Cotillard has succeeded in her bold venture not only to portray Edith Piaf physically, with costume and make-up, but also to come close to the nature of her being with a rich reservoir of small gestures and patterns of behaviour. »

HANNOVERSCHE ALLGEMEINE, February 22, 2007

« The performance of 31-year-old Marion Cotillard alone holds Dahan's dismembered film together. »

HANNOVERSCHE ALLGEMEINE

« An opulent opening film. »

MAGAZINES

BLICKPUNKT FILM

La Vie en rose isn't your usual biopic, but it is the ambitious attempt to emotionally convey a multilayered career. It will make you both sing and cry. Watching Marion Cotillard is a real event. She plays the young girl as convincingly as the dying, waiflike 47-year old wreck of a woman. She's ready for an Academy Award! Everybody in Berlin was talking about Marion Cotillard's astounding performance – the actress plays a 20-year old Edith Piaf as naturally and convincingly as a sick, tragedy-ridden woman who was 47 at the time of her death, but looked 20 years older... The film is daring, mind-blowing and moving throughout – it smoothly blends the Kid Sparrow's different life stages together and aptly portrays a woman who's been through a lot. Some scenes are just stunning.

FILMECHO

A memorable movie experience starring fabulous Marion Cotillard as Edith Piaf. La Vie en rose avoids the usual pitfalls of the period film. With Tetsuo Nagata's "organic" camerawork, costumes and production design blend into a period picture – not into an attraction. We should give Dahan the credit for aptly highlighting the key moments of Piaf's eventful life and turning them into positively unforgettable scenes. Now what's really unique is Marion Cotillard's dazzling performance – she brings back to life Piaf's iconic figure from her teenage years to her death. She never tries to take the credit for herself, which benefits the film – you've rarely seen such a well-rounded performance. Thanks to Cotillard's tour-de-force acting performance, La Vie en rose isn't just a gorgeous sheen but a true encounter with the great, waiflike, passionate Piaf.

A riveting film.

FOCUS

An account of Edith Piaf's eventful life, alternating between love and hate, happiness and despair, between life in the gutter and glamorous stages. Marion Cotillard beautifully explores every dimension of the famed French singer's character.

TIP

Olivier Dahan shows great command of the period film genre. With *La Vie en rose*, he almost always avoids the pitfalls of the biopic and truly capitalizes on the genre's qualities. Choosing a provocative yet articulate narrative packed with flashbacks, he has found the right balance between the destiny of the singer who died in 1963 and the vibrant emotion of her singing. The visual emphasis – elegant camerawork capturing the action and a mind-blowing recreation of the period – perfectly matches the melodic feel of the soundtrack. The stellar ensemble cast, including top-notch French actors, enhances Marion Cotillard's wonderful performance as Piaf.

FOCUS

The moving life of Edith Piaf, as a stormy rollercoaster of feelings rushing from joy to desperation and back, riding between the mould of the back alley and the glamour of the big stage. Starring Marion Cotillard, who plays the role brilliantly in all its facets, as the famous French chanteuse.

FREUNDIN

A film that will affect you deeply.

It is not only the chansons and the atmospheric production that are touching in this film – it is above all Marion Cotillard. The French actress (who played alongside Russell Crowe in "A Good Year") has also transformed herself into Piaf to such an extent that you simply can't cease to be amazed. Fantastic film!

GALA

Marion Cotillard outshines them all – and brings Edith Piaf back to life.

Opulent film biography.

KÖLNER ILLUSTRIERTE

Olivier Dahan's artist drama about the legendary singer Edith Piaf becomes a sparkling one-woman show. (..)

What really makes it worth seeing is her brilliant stage performances, but the emotional side of the film is especially strong in the more gloomy parts.

LISA

...a perfectly produced story about the legendary singer Edith Piaf.

MADAME

Marion Cotillard took on the challenge to play Edith Piaf. She has felt her way into the life and death of the small, great woman – with great success!

A grandiose film.

It is amazing the way she has taken on the identity of Piaf in this film.

TIP (Nr. 04/2007)

..Olivier Dahan moves with assuredness across the terrain of the epic film. In "La môme" (..), he manages to escape nearly all the traps of the traditional biopic and at the same time lay out an A-Z of the virtues of the genre. He uses a complex but always accessible web of flashbacks to portray a harmony between the fate of the singer, who died in 1963, and the emotional force of her songs. The visual emphasis – elegant, space-engulfing camera sweeps, an impressive reconstruction of the era – is precisely tuned to the melodious nature of the music. The excellent acting ensemble, a parade of the French acting aristocracy, only serves to underline Marion Cotillard's magnificent interpretation of Piaf even more.

TV DIREKT

A moving declaration of love to a great artist.
Starring an outstanding Marion Cotillard.

TV 14

Infectious.

France's superstar Marion Cotillard plays Piaf superbly.

To sum up: pure passion that will thrill you – and move you to tears!

Rating: 5 stars out of 5

WOMAN

From a tender, fragile child to the world's greatest chanson star: the life of Edith Piaf (..) is the basis of this complexly narrated, powerful and emotional drama. Cotillard plays the fragile French legend with a passion that will break your heart.