

Untouchable (Intouchables)

France 2011

Directed byOlivier Nakache
Eric Toledano**Written by**Olivier Nakache
Eric Toledano**Cinematography**

Mathieu Vadepied

Original Music

Ludovico Einaudi

Cast*François Cluzet*

Philippe

Omar Sy

Driss

Anne Le Ny

Yvonne

Audrey Fleurot

Maglie

112 min

*Our next screening...***Times & Winds (Tur)**

Tue 5 February 2013

Dir: Reha Erdem

A quietly beautiful coming-of-age drama set in a small Turkish village.

Well done to everyone who's braved the freezing conditions - tonight's film is one you can sit back & enjoy!

"Based on a true story" but more than a little tweaked, this popular movie is to be France's entry for the best foreign language film Oscar. It's a polished account of the odd-couple friendship between Philippe and Driss. What draws them together is their total honesty, sense of humour and contempt for stuffy bourgeois hypocrisy, and the general gaucheness of nearly everyone around them. It's as slick as an oil spill, as sugary as an éclair, and many moviegoers will find it irresistible.

Philip French, The Observer

Untouchable has been one of the biggest box office hits that French cinema has known. Britain might be a little late in welcoming the film but there is plenty to enjoy in this witty, big-hearted account of a friendship that crossed countless social and cultural barriers. *Untouchable* has been accused of patronising its characters and it is sentimental but it also has a tremendous spirit and touching lessons for us all. Veteran French star Francois Cluzet and award-winning comedian Omar Sy are both excellent and the chemistry between them really crackles.

Allan Hunter, Daily Express

It's an enjoyable, if familiar, set-up, recalling *Scent of a Woman* as Driss opens Philippe's eyes to new worlds and vice versa. Both become aware of their privileges: chiefly education and an able body, respectively. There's also a whiff of *The Sound of Music* as this whirlwind brings a different kind of tune to the household, challenging the way Philippe raises his daughter. Of course, this is not a romance, but a bromance: it's these two against a world that fails to understand either of them properly. While *Untouchable* is based on a true story, you sense a good deal of artistic licence – the original carer was an Algerian immigrant, while the film's Driss is Senegalese. And *Untouchable* leaves itself wide open to criticism of racial stereotyping. As Driss grooves around the mansion, showing the uptight white people how to dance, one is reminded more of an '80s Hollywood comedy than a modern French one. But both characters are enormously sympathetic and you can't deny the film's heart is in the right place. It delivers broad laughs and tugs at the heartstrings without delving too deep – the very definition of a crowd-pleaser.

Anna Smith, Time OutVoting for *Nostalgia for the Light*: A-29 B-31 C-14 D-0 E-2 Attendance: 81 Rating: 78%