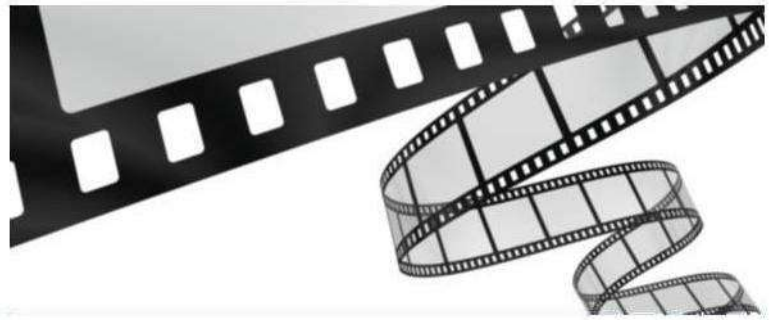


# CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

Visit our website at:  
[www.chelmsford-filmclub.co.uk](http://www.chelmsford-filmclub.co.uk)

Follow us on:  
[twitter.com/ChelmsfordFilmC](https://twitter.com/ChelmsfordFilmC)  
[www.facebook.com/ChelmsfordFilmC](https://www.facebook.com/ChelmsfordFilmC)



## **L'Amant Double**      2017

**France**      **107 Minutes**

**Director:**      **François Ozon**

**Writer:**      **François Ozon** (*freely adapted from the novel "Lives of the Twins" by Joyce Carol Oates*)

### **Cast:**

Marine Vacth: *Chloé*;

Jérémie Renier: *Paul / Louis*;

Jacqueline Bisset: *Mme Schenker / Chloé's Mother*;

Myriam Boyer: *Rose*;

Dominique Reymond: *Gynaecologist / Agnès Wexler*;

Fanny Sage: *Sandra Schenker*

---

Is there a director currently working who is as effortlessly versatile as François Ozon? Or as fluent in the language of cinema? To go from the wistful painterly restraint of the post-first-world-war drama **Frantz** to the pulpy perve-fest mind games of **L'Amant Double**, and to bring the same exquisite level of craft to both – Ozon is a director whose unabashed pleasure in his medium is infectious. And it's this – the juxtaposition of effortlessly rarefied film-making techniques with a deliciously schlocky premise and its collision of kink and crazy – that makes *L'Amant Double* such a turn-on.

The story – a disorienting deep dive into the subconscious and the sexual fantasies of a fragile young woman – wears its fetishes as boldly as any Hitchcockian corsetry. Chloé (Ozon's **Jeune & Jolie** muse **Marine Vacth**) visits psychologist Paul (**Jérémie Renier**) for treatment of psychosomatic aches. She falls in love with him, but shortly after they move in together, she discovers that he has an identical twin, Louis, also a therapist. Tellingly, while there is a neat symmetry to Chloé's therapy sessions with Paul, in Louis's consulting room, they are never in focus at the same time. Their inevitable affair – a power struggle between the sheets – allows Chloé to explore elements of her sexuality that had hitherto lain dormant.

Dualities run through the film, both thematically and visually: good and bad, sub and dom, black and white. Ozon splits his screen using mirrors and reflections, and hides "twins" – both in the frame (pairs of orchid stems, a double lamp) and in the story (two cats have key roles).

The film, which is based on a novel by Joyce Carol Oates, nods to Hitchcock in everything from the score to the use of a Vertigo-style spiral staircase, which tips us off-balance. And, in the body horror

and the twin-fetish plotline, there is an obvious debt to David Cronenberg's *Dead Ringers*. But the skin-tingling subversion of the erotic thriller premise is all Ozon.

(Wendy Ide, *The Observer*, June 2018)

---

### **Our previous presentation:**

Based on the feedback slips returned on the night, you rated **The Square**, 3.4 stars out of 5. Please visit the Archive pages at <http://www.chelmsford-filmclub.co.uk> to read all the feedback comments.

You can still provide feedback on this, or any other film, by visiting the Discussions page (<http://www.chelmsford-filmclub.co.uk/discussion/>).

### **Our next presentation:**

[The Beguiled](#) (director Sofia Coppola's retelling of Thomas Cullen's 1966 novel "The Painted Devil") will be shown on 12th February, starting at 8:00pm.