

## oCHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

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**THE CRIME IS MINE** Monday 8 December 2025 102 mins Language - French

The 1934 French play 'Mon Crime' by George Berr and Louis Verneuil has already been adapted for two American films, *True Confession* (1937) with Carole Lombard and *Cross My Heart* (1946) with Betty Hutton. Now François Ozon has 'loosely' adapted it again in this 2023 movie.

The story, with its ever twisting and turning plot, is still set in Paris in 1935. This allows for Isabelle Huppert to play the ageing silent film actress Odette Chaumette, now sidelined by the 'talkies'. Madeleine, a struggling actress, and Pauline, a client-chasing lawyer, share a run-down flat. When Madeleine is tried for the murder of theatre producer Montferrand, a Harvey Weinstein figure, and is sensationally acquitted, she becomes an overnight celebrity and the work pours in. Odette, deeply resentful, claims that she is Montferrand's murderer: if fame is the result of murdering a 'seducer of actresses', then she wants a slice of it, if not the whole cake!

Talking of cake, some critics have suggested that Ozon has created a film with maybe rather too much cream on top, a "crowd-pleasing theatrical comedy... watching it is like being force-fed a large box of chocolates. Moreish though!" (Peter Bradshaw in *The Guardian*). But this is the Club's pre-Christmas offering and we've had some serious diet to digest so far. So tuck in and, hopefully, enjoy this comedy. I'm loath to use this term, however, as the last time I described one of our films as a 'comedy' a member told me that they couldn't find anything in it to laugh about!

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At this film we will be having another raffle - £1 a ticket/ £5 a strip. There will also be a selection of the Club's Blu-ray/DVDs on sale, all discs £5 each. All funds raised will help the Club finance this season's programme and will be much appreciated. Don't forget to use your concessionary guest tickets, if you haven't already done so. Our next screening will be **Evil Does Not Exist** on Thursday 29 January. A merry Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year to all our members and guests.