



THE GOLDMAN CASE (15)

Director: Cédric Kahn

Starring: Arieh Worthalter, Arthur Harari, Stéphan Guérin-Tillié

France, 2023, 1 hour 55 minutes, French + English subtitles

In *The Goldman Case*, Cédric Kahn's formally restrained but ultimately electrifying dramatization of a trial that gripped and divided France in 1976, that canny inconsistency is but one unexpected fold in a courtroom drama that finds equal intrigue in legal order and human chaos... Drawing from contemporary newspaper reporting and first-hand interviews with Goldman's lawyers, Kahn and Nathalie Hertberg's script dispenses with much in the way of setup. Establishing chunks of onscreen text provide the essential facts about Goldman's 1974 conviction on four charges of armed robbery (one of which saw two women killed) and subsequent sentencing to life imprisonment, but dramatically, the film plunges straight into legal preparations for his second trial with few niceties of character or milieu. –

Variety

Franco-Belgian actor Worthalter, who's perhaps best known for his role in Lukas Dhont's *Girl*, is riveting every time his character takes the stand. He convinces us of Goldman's innocence, not to mention his commitment to political causes, far before the trial is over, and we're only hoping that the jury will wind up agreeing with us. – **The Hollywood Reporter**

What links *The Goldman Case* to *Saint Omer* is its use of the courtroom drama to point the camera directly at French injustice itself. For Diop, it was about exploring her country's latent racism, whereas for Kahn it's about the anti-leftist and antisemitic leanings of the state in the 1970s — leanings that have found a new voice in today's rise of the French radical right. "Jews and Blacks are the same," explains Goldman in one of his many outbursts, and while that may seem like an overstatement, it brings up an unpleasant truth about discrimination in France that this powerful film bears witness to. – **The Hollywood Reporter**

Preview courtesy of Metfilm

Notes compiled by Holly Dennison

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