

La Faute à Fidel ! / Blame it on Fidel ! (2006)

Directed by Julie Gavras



Awards: Nominated for Best Foreign-Language Film, Cinema Brazil Grand Prize (2008), Nominated for the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize, Sundance Film Festival (2007)

Blame it on Fidel is Costa-Gavras's daughter's debut feature film. Based on the Italian novel, *Tutta Colpa di Fidel*, Gavras's film presents the early post "May 68" years through the eyes of Anna, a nine-year-old French girl, as her parents embrace new political and social ideals. "May 68" is often described as one of the last attempts in post-war France to overcome the dominant conservatism of the time and as an event which significantly changed perceptions about individual and collective freedom. During the course of Spring 1968, social movements led by students and workers soon spread a revolutionary atmosphere across the whole country. Although the events did not radically transform the political scene, they carried social modifications that allowed for more social egalitarianism, individual rights and sexual emancipation.

Following Anna in her daily life, at home and at school, the film presents her troubled adaptation to the new principles implemented by her family. Born in a wealthy environment whose values lay in the "A family, a house, a job" credo, she discovers the importance of social justice and group solidarity. As her family moves out of their spacious suburban house with a garden to a small Parisian apartment, Anna is removed from her private Catholic school and placed in the local public school. More daily adjustments will trouble and disrupt Anna's comfortable life. Nina Kervel, a non-professional child actor, was chosen out of 400 children, and throughout the film, her gestures and pouts capture her confusion and resistance to her parents' new political and revolutionary commitment.

"*Blame It on Fidel* is the kind of smart, sophisticated and fiercely humanistic film that all movies should aspire to be, but seldom do." (Carina Chocano, *Los Angeles Times*)

Blame it on Fidel: Friday 10/31 - 7 pm; Sunday 11/2 – 4.30 pm; Tuesday 11/4 – 9.15 pm; Wednesday 11/5 – 7 pm

Written by Arnaud Perret