

Bangalore | Posted on Mar 22, 2012 at 10:05am IST

# A movie that touches the right chords



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BANGALORE: The French movie The Kid with a Bike written and directed by siblings Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, was recently screened on the second day of the International Film Festival at UB City, Film Harvest 2012.

The movie runs along a simple yet touching story of a 11-year-old troubled kid Cyril who is abandoned by his father and ends up turning to a woman for comfort and much needed affection. The story is simple and real and makes you want to reach out to the kid, every time he asks about his father.

The movie starts with Cyril trying to flee the children's home where he is temporarily put up under the care of counsellors. He tries to escape since he is unable to accept the fact that his father has left him and wants to find the truth himself. In an attempt to search for his father, he manages to make it to his old apartment where he used to live, but is disappointed to find the house empty and his most prized possession missing —

his bike.

While he is trying to escape from his caregivers who come looking for him, he clings to a woman named Samantha, a hairdresser who is waiting in the medical room. She is touched by the kid's need and in a random act of compassion, finds his bike and delivers it to his foster home. Cyril, who is craving for affection, asks Samantha if he could visit her on weekends and she happily obliges. She also helps the kid in tracking down his father, but when she gets to know that the father is not willing to have the kid back in his life, the rejection is heartbreaking and she fails to muster the courage to tell the same to the young boy. The scene in Samantha's car, when Cyril gets to face the bitter truth that his father doesn't want him back and when he breaks down into Samantha's arms, is especially shattering.

Cyril's aggression catches the attention of Wes, a local drug dealer who is always on the lookout for new kids to do his dirty work. The effortless manner in which the savvy drug dealer woos the troubled child is scary and shows how vulnerable kids are, let alone the ones grappling with abandonment issues. In a final desperate bid to get back to his father, Cyril offers him the proceeds of his first robbery, which is heart wrenching.

The only ray of hope for Cyril is the compassionate Samantha, played by the lovely Cecile De France, who portrays the other central character with finesse. The performances are flawless; especially the lead character of ginger-haired Cyril played by Thomas Doret, couldn't get any better. The desperation and helplessness portrayed by the child actor is heartbreaking.

Not a single shot or dialogue in the movie seems wasted or unwanted and it perfectly showcases every child's need for love and acceptance.

Alain Marcoen's cinematography makes the movie believable, natural and Marie-Helene Dozo's editing makes the transition from scene to another smooth.

This intensely moving drama adds another feather in the cap of the Belgian brothers who have dealt with the subject of an abandoned and uncontrollable child possibly on his way to self-destruction, in a

beautiful manner.

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