

The Taste of Things aka The Pot-au-Feu

France | 2023 | 150m | 12A
Director: Trần Anh Hùng
Starring: Juliette Binoche, Pierre Gagnaire, Jan Hammenecker

An adaptation of the 1924 novel, *The Passionate Epicure* by Marcel Rouff, *The Taste of Things*, also known as *The Pot-au-Feu*, is Trần Anh Hùng's latest in a long line of brilliant films. A Vietnamese-born and French-bred screenwriter and director, Hùng's work is largely influenced by his strong sense of identity. The international limelight first fell on Hùng in 1993, when his directorial debut feature, *The Scent of Green Papaya*, was nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the Academy Awards - the first and, so far, only Vietnamese-language film ever to receive such an honour.

This French production, set in 1885 during the evocative Belle Époque period, serves as the perfect setting for a story which has been described as 'sensorial' by *Variety*, and one which you will feel you can taste from its first, 40-minute scene, which Hùng described as 'a ballet.'

For 20 years, Eugénie (Juliette Binoche, *Chocolat*) and Dodin (Benoît Magimel, *The Piano Teacher*) have shared a passion and a kitchen, where they not only create the most delicious treats to entertain refined guests, but also nurture their relationship. Binoche and Magimel, who met on the set of *The Children of the Century* in 1999, had a four-year relationship in real life, from which they share a daughter together. Here they are reunited on screen, and their positive chemistry is a delight to all palates.

Interestingly, 'Pot-au-feu,' the title chosen to represent the film in the festival circuit, is an iconic yet simple French classic stew composed of beef cuts and modest vegetables. Throughout the course of the film, it becomes the embodiment of Dodin's deepest hopes and desires.

The Taste of Things has already earned Hùng the award for Best Director at the 76th Cannes Film Festival and will serve as France's official submission for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 96th Academy Awards, where it already looks a favourite to win.

'Never has such cheesy dialogue left this reviewer so giddy...don't forget — cheese is a delicacy in France,'
Ben Troll, *TheWrap*.

Excellent

Fair

Poor

What did you think of the film? Please mark or tear the number.

Please add any further comments here

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Fun Facts

- France last won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film with *Indochine* by Régis Wargnier in 1993, when Húng's directorial debut, *The Scent of Green Papaya*, was nominated too.
- Maine-et-Loire, in the French Loire Valley, served as the film's core filming location, previously seen in parts of Pasolini's *Decameron* in 1970.
- The film won the Culinary Zinema Best Film Award at the 71st San Sebastian Film Festival.

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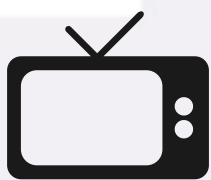


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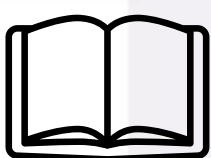
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