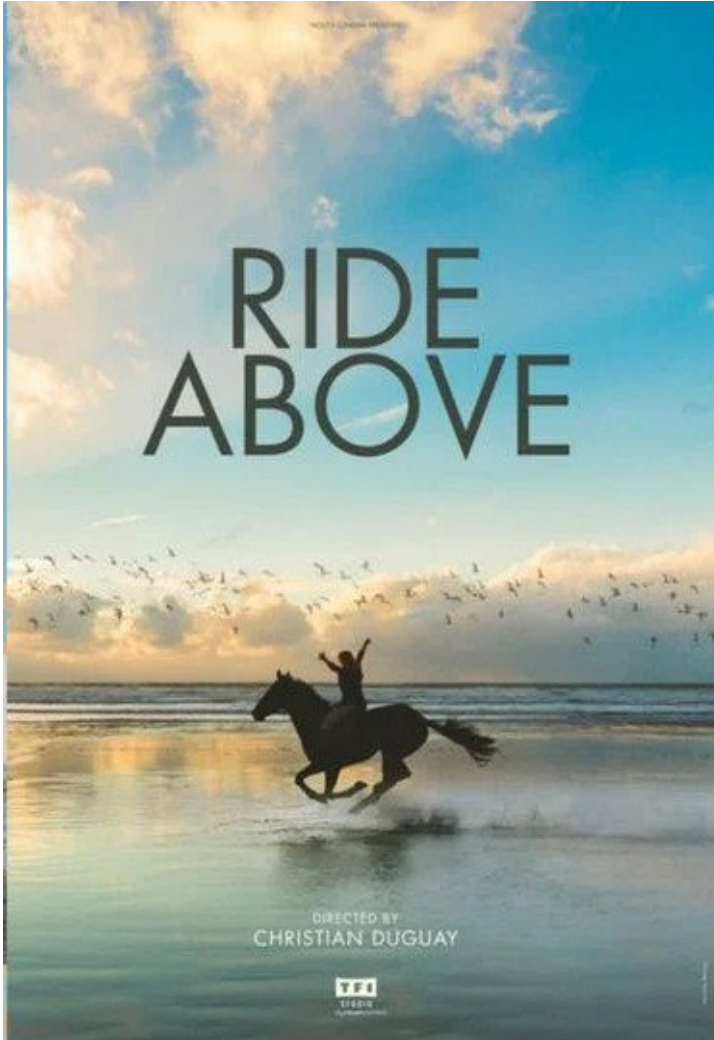


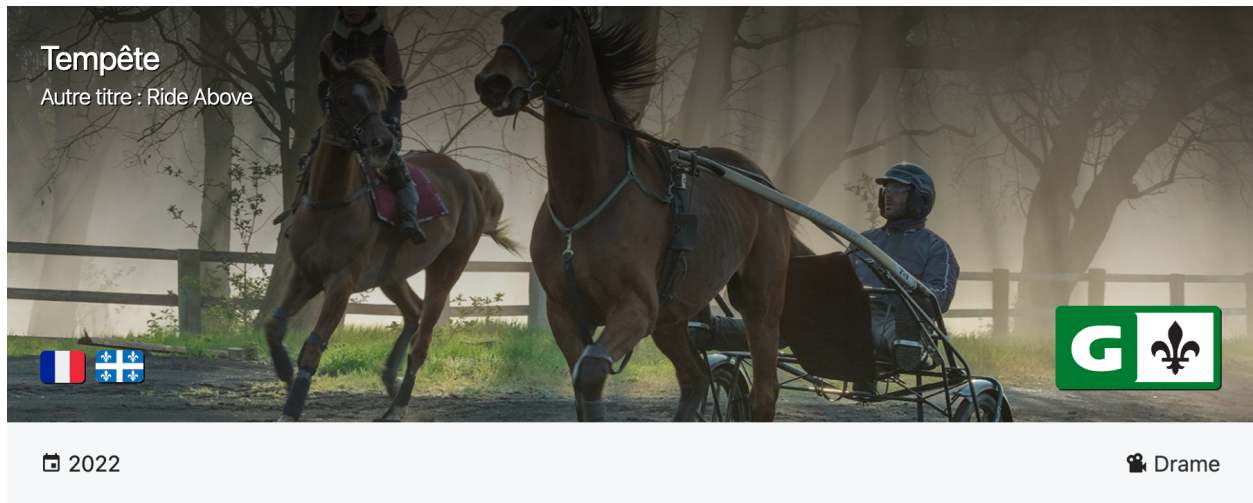
# RIDE ABOVE/TEMPÊTE

Original version: French/ English subtitles



Director: *Christian Duguay*  
Release Date (Quebec): *December 20th, 2022*  
Genre: *Drama*  
Countries of origin: *France, Quebec (Canada)*  
Run Time: *110 min*

## AGE APPROPRIATENESS



### Motifs de classement

Cette adaptation, par Christian Duguay, du roman jeunesse homonyme de Christophe Donner raconte l'histoire d'une adolescente qui, après avoir été heurtée par un cheval, doit composer avec un handicap qui bouleverse son existence et celle de son entourage. Se déroulant sur une période de 18 ans, le récit évoque les jours heureux passés en compagnie des pur-sang, auxquels succèdent les moments de colère et de frustration, puis l'espoir et la reconquête de l'autonomie. Ponctué de séquences de courses enlevantes, le film privilégie la retenue au moment de relater l'accident de Zoé. L'œuvre, centrée sur une jeune héroïne au caractère bien trempé, offre un message universel de courage et de persévérance qui convient à toute la famille.

### Date de classement

20 décembre 2022

## SYNOPSIS

Zoé leads a happy life at her parents' racehorse stables, driven by the dream of someday becoming a jockey like her father. When stable's prize mare, Beautiful Intrigue, gives birth to a foal that Zoé names Tempest, Zoé sees the foal as the champion that her parents have been waiting and working for all their lives. The winner she will ride to victory. But Zoé's dreams are shattered one stormy night, when a panicked Tempest accidentally injures Zoé, leaving her permanently "disabled". Furious at life, Zoé slips into despair and pulls her entire family down with her. But with the support of her family and the help of Seb, a stable hand with a gift for communicating with horses, Zoé will seek to conquer the impossible, in pursuit of her dream.

*Popcorn*

## REVIEWS

A film that touches the heart and bewitches the senses, RIDE ABOVE transports audiences from their seats to the stables and glistening coastlines of Normandy, France. (...) Heart wrenching and honest, RIDE ABOVE is a tale of loss and triumph – a reminder that in the face of adversity the strongest barrier to achieving our dreams is often ourselves.  
*Palace Cinemas - Melbourne*

*Ride Above* is a film about facing adversity and finding the courage to pick yourself up again which is in the Family category (...) Horse lovers will appreciate *Ride Above* perhaps most of all, and those looking for an easy feel-good film to watch.  
*Matilda Marseillaise*

*Ride Above* is a charming, heartbreaking, beautiful exercise of a viewer's own imagination and sympathies. This reviewer feels he became, somehow, a little better as a human being for having seen it.  
*Agricola – The Movie Data Base*

## DETAILS

### LANGUAGE

**Warning** This film has English subtitles that were not available at the time of its viewing. The comments are regarding the French dialogues.

Tempête is based on the children's novel *Tempête au haras* by Christophe Donner, which has itself been adapted into a comic book, with drawings by Jérémie Moreau.

The French spoken in the film is the language of everyday life, with at times, depending on the situation, becomes colloquial and slang.

« C'est qui le costard? » Who is the guy in a suit? / « Va y avoir du taf » there will be work to do / « qu'ils sont couillons ces jeunes! » these young people are idiots! / « Il aime le fric » He likes the dough / « On fait une connerie » We made a mistake / « cafouillage de merde » shitty confusion / « Putain, elle va le faire » Shit! She is going to make it! / « Tu es un grand malade! » you are disturbed/...

The equine vocabulary is found throughout the film: the gallop, the riding crop, the strain, the hooves, the racecourses, the ranking of the horses during the races with the reporters' comments.

Emotions dictate the tone of the exchanges between Zoé, her educator, her parents, her brother and Seb.

Zoé is rebellious: she doesn't want to see anyone.

*Dégage. Tu me soûles.* Get out. You make me dizzy

*Foutez-moi la paix. J'en ai marre de vos conneries!* Leave me alone. I'm sick of your antics!

*J'veux plus voir personne.* I don't want to see anyone anymore

*Je veux faire le vide.* I want to clear my mind.

Zoé's brother's reaction: "She's mean." Her entourage warns Zoé: "You're going to alienate everyone."

Marie, Zoé's mother, blames herself: "It's my fault," she says. She tries as best she can to cheer up her daughter by massaging her legs: You know I don't feel anything. Are you going to massage me like this every day? *Tu sais que je ne sens rien. Tu vas me masser comme ça tous les jours?* [Zoé].

Zoé feels guilty too. She thinks she is responsible for her father's failure: "I ruined everything" « *J'ai tout gâché* »

In response to these dark thoughts, the film moves toward a positive resolution to the story. Marie finds a way to strengthen Zoé's muscles through swimming and motivate her to take action.

The educator, like Seb, do their best to direct Zoé towards "autonomy" (so that she doesn't behave like "an old woman"). The wheelchairs get more practical, night equestrian exercises are practiced by Zoé without her parents knowing.

In this positive momentum, the idea of overcoming adversity is expressed several times in these words: "we will get up", "Dad will get up". « on va se relever » « Papa va se relever ». "I won't let you sink," « Je te laisserai pas couler » says Zoé's father by way of moral support.

## **VIOLENCE**

Zoé's family loves horses, but breeding horses is expensive, hence the need to partner with the wealthy American investor who only wants to make a lot of money from horse racing. Suspense emanates from the fast pace of the races with their monetary stakes, the uncertainty of who will win the prizes, the accidents that occur. When the horse rears up and goes off the track, when the wheels of the sulky in harness races fall apart, accidents are likely to claim victims. Zoé's dad falls several times, which is rough.

The storm scene remains pivotal for its impact on the story: the loudness of thunder that rumbles, the threatening lightning, the tree branches that fall on the stud farm, the horses that panic and Storm that tramples Zoé can be scary.

The accident from which Zoé suffers is not graphic. The images are fast, somewhat murky, with no gory details nor visible marks.

## **NUDITY**

None

## **SEXUAL ACTIVITY**

Marie and Philippe are a loving couple of parents.

A brief scene shows the spouses in bed in the morning, exchanging a kiss on the mouth and loving gestures. Nothing graphic nor prolonged.



## PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT/ MESSAGES

### THIS COULD SCARE CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OLD

- **The double birth**

Like the book, *Tempête* opens with a sequence of "double birth", as the director explains: *"In the book, there was this feature, and we totally took it up. We wondered if the sequence might not be too graphic, but I was convinced that the result could be very beautiful: the links between the characters, and between the characters and Belle-Intriguante, are established from the beginning so that the viewer can then establish how they relate."*

Marie is expecting a baby. She puts her hands on her belly as she makes her way with difficulty to the stable where the mare Belle Intrigante herself gives birth to her baby foal. We hear grunts, we hear cries of pain from Mary.

What we see is Seb pulling the newborn from the mare with great effort and protecting him.

- **The storm**

The sound of thunder, the lightning, the wind and rain that knock down the branches, the panic of the horses create an atmosphere of suspense and anxiety.

- **The scene of the accident**

Although the details are not graphic, Zoé's fall trampled by Storm remains an unexpected and sad turn because it will shatter Zoé's dreams of being a jockey.

- **Zoé's bitterness**

Zoé is very affected by her leg paralysis and wants to isolate herself. She becomes surly, "mean" as her brother says and resists the exercises suggested by her educator. She turns away from the horses she loves so much.

## POSITIVE MESSAGES

- **The support of Zoé's family who do not abandon her**

- **The support and inventiveness of Seb, a person with disability gifted as a horse whisperer**

- **The qualities that enhance Zoé's life:**

Perseverance – courage – patience – the will to improve through physical exercise – resilience

- **Love of horses as opposed to greed**

The American investor is only interested in the prizes that would be won by the horses lovingly bred by Marie and Philippe

## FILM PHOTOS



Zoé loves horses thanks to her parents (and here Philippe her father) teaching her how to tend the horses



Zoé would race with her father as he trained for the harness races.





Zoé and her dad racing on a Normandie beach

Zoé is starting to regain trust



Seb, the horse whisper, takes care of Tempête.



Seb supports Zoé in her efforts to ride Tempête



Seb helped creating the device that will enable Zoé to get on the horse and ride



The unconditional love of Marie, Zoé's mom, , plays an essential role in how Zoé is regaining confidence and courage

