

THE GUILTY – David Stratton’s Introduction

THE GUILTY, Denmark, 2018, 85 min, Crime/Drama/Thriller, M. (Rights held by Rialto). Dir: Gustav Moller. IMDb vote 7.5

Welcome to this screening of THE GUILTY, a Danish film by director Gustav Moller, and really you could hardly have a simpler and more effective concept.

This is a movie about a guy and a telephone. THE GUILTY is set inside the emergency calls section of the Copenhagen police station, and the focus throughout is on a cop, Asger Holm, whose job that night is to help people in trouble.

Right from the start of this briskly-paced thriller we realise that Asger has been assigned to this less than prestigious position because of something he has done – that he shouldn’t have done. He has a court attendance in the morning that he is obliged to attend. But meanwhile he answers the calls for help and one call is from a woman called Iben – a mother of two small children who seems to be in danger from her violent ex-husband.

The premise is simple enough, but the film, a tricky, multi-layered affair which unfolds in real-time, keeps the tension on the boil throughout its relatively brief hour and a quarter. It’s a one-man show but Jacob Cedergren is very good as the cop with the short fuse.

I think you will find THE GUILTY very compelling, tense and a skilfully made exercise in suspense.

I hope you enjoy THE GUILTY.



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