



AGE CLASSIFICATION REQUEST

2016

Belmont Filmhouse, 49 Belmont Street, Aberdeen

24 WEEKS

SYNOPSIS

24 Weeks

24 Wochen

Anne Zohra Berrached / Germany 2016 / 102min / German with English subtitles

Cast: Julia Jentsch, Bjarne Maedel, Johanna Gastdorf, Emilia Pieske, Mila Bruk

Synopsis

24 WEEKS tells the story of cabaret performer Astrid (Julia Jentsch), who six months pregnant learns that her unborn child will be severely disabled. She and her husband Marcus (Bjarne Maedel) have a choice, but little time... A strong nature with a witty answer to everything, Astrid now feels lost, on her own, impossible to continue her comedy routine. Ultimately only she who is bearing the child can take this weighty decision. What will she do? Who decides whether the child will have a life worth living?

Longer Synopsis

On the stage and in the spotlight, Astrid lives and loves her job as a stand-up comedian, devoting herself completely to her work, while Markus, her husband and manager, calmly and ably supports her. However, when the couple is expecting their second child, their otherwise so regular and well-ordered life is thrown off course after a routine exam reveals trisomy 21. At first neither of them knows how to cope, but they eventually decide together in favor of a life with Down's Syndrome. Drawing on the same strength that helped them take control of their daily life working with the public, the future parents start preparing for life with a disabled child. They are unfazed when their friends and relatives react with bewilderment and helplessness. Soon the diagnosis is no longer frightening, and they start looking forward again to the birth of their child.

But when during the six month of pregnancy, another exam reveals the full extent of the disability, this news hits the parents much harder, and their courage and optimism comes very close to folding like a house of cards.

Here again, Astrid and Markus want to take every decision together, and again they want to find a way to make things work. But the prognosis is now much more complicated. They suddenly find themselves faced with a moral conflict, having to decide between bringing a severely handicapped child into the world and ending the pregnancy in the sixth month. Racing from one diagnosis and one piece of advice to another, their opinions now diverge. Who can know whether the child is really going to suffer, and whether its life will be worth living? While they are searching for the right answer, everything is called into question – their relationship, their desire for a child, and a life according to plan. With medical professionals, statistics, and prognoses around her on every side, Astrid realizes that since she is bearing the child, she is ultimately the only one who can make the decision.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4--6F3U-J54>

SUGGESTED RATING UTILISING BBFC GUIDELINES

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DISCRIMINATION

The topic of Down-syndrome comes up, because the main character is pregnant with a child with down-syndrome. Some people react negative about the couple wanting to keep the baby. There is no direct discrimination towards people with Down-Syndrome.

DRUGS

There are some scenes where people are drinking and smoking.

HORROR

The narrative stays very close to the main character during the abortion. This is all part of the story line, and there are not too many details visible, but viewers could be a bit shocked by this (although it is more emotional than anything else).

IMITABLE BEHAVIOUR

A young kids climbs in a tree house

LANGUAGE

Infrequent use of curse words.

NUDITY

There are some scenes where female body-parts are exposed, but most of it is non-erotic.

SEX

There is one scene where a couple has sex.

THEME

Relationships, late-abortion.

VIOLENCE

None