

# Chester Film Society presents

## The Origin of Evil

France 2023 | 2hr 3m | Cert 15

Director: Sébastien Marnier

Starring: Laura Calmet, Dominique Blanc, Doria Tillier, Céleste Brunnquell

### Synopsis

When Stéphane gets in touch with wealthy Serge, announcing that she is his long-abandoned daughter, his immediate family are none too thrilled. As Stéphane embarks on an extended visit in hopes of getting to know Serge, she also becomes entangled with the hostile women who share a tense existence in his beautifully appointed mansion by the sea.

### Critical acclaim

"While it nods to the misanthropic Patricia Highsmith, *The Origin of Evil* also boasts some twisty Agatha Christie-style plotting and a touch of Hitchcock glamour." *Radio Times*

"Without a doubt this is easy entertainment, never dull, and it has some shrewd things to say about class and money – though the satire might have been sharper and the running time shorter by a good 20 minutes." *The Guardian*

"This thriller has an excellent cast and looks wonderful, although the plot-line is somewhat preposterous and soap-opera-esque. Nevertheless, it's stylish and gripping." *The Arts Desk*

"For my money, Laure Calamy is France's most versatile film star, a winning presence in anything from high comedy to realist drama... Here, in Sébastien Marnier's identity theft thriller *The Origins of Evil*, she's brilliant again." *Limelight*

"If *The Origin of Evil* were only lurid camp it would pall fairly quickly, but Marnier is careful to weave a

fine vein of pathos through this narrative." *Sight and Sound*

"In *The Origin of Evil*," a gnarly, knotty thriller co-written (with Fanny Burdino) and directed by Sébastien Marnier, Calamy gives a dramatic performance of unsettling depth." *RogerEbert.com*

"[An] enjoyably pulpy, devious, Highsmith-esque thriller in which nothing and nobody are quite what they seem." *The Observer*

"*The Origin of Evil* is ultimately Calamy's show as a calculating and desperate woman seeking love and acceptance in all the wrong places." *IndieWire*

"*The Origin of Evil* recalls Ruben Östlund's *Triangle of Sadness* for how its prolonged, soft-peddled skewering of the wealthy seems convinced of its Buñuelian irreverence." *Slant Magazine*

### Conclusion

Sébastien Marnier teases out with cool assurance in this wildly entertaining thriller that will keep you guessing all the way to the end. Laura Calamy's star continues to rise.

### Our next film...

31st October – Sorcery

Chester Picturehouse – Screen 2, 7.30 PM

Don't forget to buy your tickets in advance!

[www.chesterfilmsociety.co.uk](http://www.chesterfilmsociety.co.uk)

Please rate tonight's film using the scale below. We welcome your comments! Detach and hand in as you leave.

| ---- I loathed it ---- | ---- I disliked it ----- | ----- It was OK ----- | ----- I liked it -----| -----I loved it ----- |

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10