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La Moindre des Choses

Sun 9 at 21.00 MC

Documentarist Nicolas Philibert was originally reluctant to make a film about La Borde, a psychiatric clinic based in a beautiful chateau in the midst of a forest. However, La Borde's relatively unconventional approach to insanity, the respect shown to the individual residents and the lively spirit of some of the patients themselves convinced him to go ahead. During the summer of 1995 the patients and staff of the clinic work together to prepare their annual theatrical performance. The film records the ups and downs of this process, but more than this it captures the nuances of daily life, the loneliness and fatigue but also the pleasures, collective merriment and commitment. Philibert's approach is involved and absorbing, an antidote to the hit-and-run school of documentary making. It is also perfectly suited to the subject matter, gently pushing us to question our assumptions about mental health and well-being. Sandra Hebron

Dir Nicolas Philibert / France 1996 / 104mins

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