

## Tatie Danielle (1990)

I first saw the film on a video cassette in the late 90s and showed it to our informal film group. I had just started to be interested in issues of the representation of the old woman in feature films and loved the film for its outrageous apparently ageist stance and its humour. At the time I did not record our meetings and all I remember is that one of our members, a social worker, stormed out of the room refusing to stay for the discussion : "it is an encouragement to abusers of the old and I am not interested". In 2002 it was included in the BFI Older Women in Film Guide. 110 people viewed it and commented on it.

This month there were 7 of us: The immediate responses:

- It annoyed me. Very Negative. Overdone
- She is a nasty piece of work. Some people are like that
- Annoying and boring. Old age themes not explored.
- Totally improbable. Hugely amusing.
- The unrelated events made me think of a comic strip.
- Contrived.

The discussion however raised many interesting issues and disagreements.

- The question of the poor characterisation of Tatie Danielle, her motives for behaving in this way, her unexplained sudden change of behaviour with Sandrine.
- T.D. Is so extremely nasty that we cannot take her as a plausible.
- The pushing of boundaries behaviour of T.D.
- If we replaced T.D with a character belonging to an ethnic minority would the film be acceptable?
- Why has the film been such a success in France?