

CUB

'No" dir by Robert Lepage  
Dmitry Tolonen

The world is a stage, a certain philosophical playwright once wrote.

Sophie, (Anne-Marie Cadieux) is a Canadian actress at the 1970 Osaka World's Fair - and her life is gradually starting to resemble her play at the Canadian Pavilion - a cheap-laugh farce by Feydeau. And, in addition, she has found herself two-months pregnant.

What a mess!

But, her boyfriend in Montreal, Michel (Alexis Martin), has other worries. A frustrated author sitting in his darkened room, he's swept into politics and the agenda of his blundering Quebecois radical separatist friends (actor-come-terrorists). Subsequently, as Sophie is fending off an over-familiar actor and the cultural attaché for Canada in Japan, Michel and his friends manage to blow up her apartment in Montreal.

Lepage makes cleverish, living, visual parallels between similar events taking place on these separate planes. The film was developed from an act in Lepage's theatre company Ex Machina's famous work 'The Seven Streams of the River Ota'. Some will go on to point out that a larger audience will not connect with the local history of Quebec, and thus not get much out of the story. This is not altogether true, as the film works very much on an intuitive level and it employs comic timing excellently. The scenes in Canada are shot in black and white, while those in Japan in brilliant, painterly colours, this is a film, which is again very enjoyable to watch.