



# Romantic thriller shows hand too soon

## Film Review By Bridget Lacy

PIAF: Crossed Tracks  
Orana Cinema  
March 10, 8.30pm  
Tickets \$14/\$10, available at  
www.perthfestival.com.au or  
phone 9844 2222.

WHAT is real? Who can you trust? Should you put your faith in a stranger?

These are all questions raised in Roman de Gare's puzzling film *Crossed Tracks*.

Presented as part of the Perth International Film Festival, *Crossed Tracks* relies on the fact both the characters and audience

are for much of the film unaware of what is real and what is fiction.

This is the strength of the film, the gripping suspense created by a serial killer being on the loose and we are not sure if one of our protagonists is him.

Not only this, but we are kept guessing on what the motives of most of the main characters are.

Part love story, part thriller, this film is a strange mix of themes and genre.

It falls down, however, because the backbone of the film is the element of mys-

tery and the major suspense of the film is given away too early. The love story and moments of clarity and comedy are not enough to hold the film together after we discover the truth, so for me it didn't reach any great heights.

The ending was also a little too neat and fanciful for my liking.

Having said that, however, for much of the film I was gripped in the strange web of characters and trying to guess how they were connected.

It's hard to say what de Gare was trying to achieve

with this film, other than to keep the viewer intrigued by the characters and their final destinations, but there are also questions raised about what we can believe in and whether at the end of the day it really matters if something is a total truth.

Perhaps what he was trying to say was we are not all easily identifiable and many of us can be different things at different times.

Overall, it was an enjoyable film worth a look, particularly if you are a fan of French cinema.



Dominique Pinon and Fanny Ardant are part of the web of mystery in French festival film *Crossed Tracks*