

## **The Widow of St. Pierre**

This is an evocative period piece from France wherein, in the colony of Saint Pierre off Newfoundland in 1850, a captain's wife (Juliette Binoche) befriends a condemned murderer (Emir Kusturica) who cannot be executed because--there is no guillotine! Completely redeemed by the ministrations of the wife, the convict becomes the town favorite, and no one wants him to die, including his jailer, the captain (Daniel Auteil). Yet the authorities must still contrive to have justice served.

This movie is more a delicate fable than a realistic narrative, with its characters serving more as symbols than genuine individuals, but *The Widow of St. Pierre* (neatly directed by the French veteran Patrice Leconte) itself is redeemed by a splendid sense of period and exquisitely calculated and exquisitely rendered photography. A treat for the eyes along with a tug at the heart.

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