

Shipham Community Cinema

presents

Manchester By The Sea - Cert 15

Director: Kenneth Lonergan. Starring: Casey Affleck, Lucas Hedges, Michelle Williams

Last month we were well entertained by a great film classic 'The Graduate'. Tonight we have Writer/Director Kenneth Lonergan's brilliant movie 'Manchester by the Sea', a multiple Oscar winner in 2017 and a film destined to follow into the 'classic' pantheon in due course. Our film is a tale of loss and how a man and his nephew attempt to deal with it. It is emotional and harrowing in places but its depth and intelligence constantly shines through and its heartfelt humour flickers even in the darkest of scenarios.



Look at a map of the State of Massachusetts and you will find Manchester-by-the-Sea a little north of the city of Boston on the picturesque coastline known as Cape Ann. Our story follows Lee Chandler (brilliantly played by *Casey Affleck*) who grew up in our titular town but now lives in Boston working as a janitor/handyman.



Lee seems proud of his independence but also somewhat ashamed by it. He is moody and alienated, sad and angry. His one room life is turned upside down when his older brother Joe (*Kyle Chandler*) dies suddenly and he has to return home to fulfill Joe's dying wish that Lee take care of Joe's 16 year old son Patrick. He

hates the thought of having to comply and having to face his past in Manchester, a past that is revealed to us in flashback as Lee's story develops. Patrick, (played by *Lucas Hedges*), is grief stricken and buries his sadness in guitars, sex and smart phones in a highly believable teenage way. He acts rather older than he is and is set on taking advantage of his uncle. A respect steadily develops between the pair as they struggle with their loss but neither is ready or able to explain how they feel or to talk about it. Slowly Lee's past is revealed and the reasons for his melancholic demeanour and closed emotional state emerges.

Kenneth Lonergan gives us a very powerful emotional drama and provides a story with great breadth and subtlety. It is no surprise that he won Oscars for both his screenplay and his direction. His leading actor Casey Affleck is also superb. Without being melodramatic or overacting, Affleck delivers the melancholy, the anger, the immense sadness of his character whilst giving us his most accomplished performance to date on screen. He easily deserved his Oscar for Best Actor. Director Lonergan makes

us, the audience, work hard however. The development of the narrative is never linear. He has us use our own perceptions to unravel the emerging states of emotion that develop throughout the film. The storytelling is quite masterful and is beautifully supported by a cast ensemble that includes a brief but terrific performance from *Michelle Williams* as Lee's ex-wife Randi. Her street scene with Lee is truly memorable as every possible emotion plays across both their faces. We feel the tension that is drowning them, cannot imagine being in their position, but can touch perhaps the confusion that lies in their situation.



Manchester by the Sea is a modern classic and well deserving of all its awards and nominations. This is an A+ movie and one of the great films of 2016.

Doors at 7.15pm, programme commencing 7.45pm.

TONIGHT'S PROGRAMME:

Announcements

Trailers for:

'I Am Not Not Your Negro' - our extra show on 27th October

'Summer In The Forest' - a special show on 3rd November

'Hidden Figures' - our main show on 10th November

Main feature (137 mins) with a break after 1 hour 15 mins

We welcome your feedback. Tell us what you thought of the show on our Facebook page, by email to cinema@shiphamhall.co.uk or by filling out a feedback form, (hand it to any committee member).

Our usual many thanks to our sponsors:

