

Shipham Community Cinema

presents

Their Finest - Cert 12A

Director: Lone Scherfig. Starring Gemma Arterton, Bill Nighy, Sam Claflin

In '*Their Finest*', scripted by *Gaby Chiappe* and based on a *Lissa Evan's* novel '*Their Finest Hour and a Half*', Director *Lone Scherfig* takes a look at the war effort through a feminine lens in 1940s London. *Gemma Arterton* is *Catrin Cole*, a young Welsh woman and aspiring screenwriter who is hired to co-write a Ministry of Information propaganda film based on the tale of twin sisters who joined the flotilla of small boats during the Dunkirk evacuation. 'We can't pay you as much as the chaps,' says the man from the Ministry disparagingly, and *Catrin* is told to write 'the slop', i.e. to provide a feminine ear for dialogue spoken by the female characters.



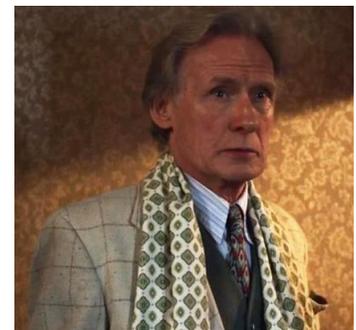
Lone Scherfig



'*Their Finest*' then, is a tale about one woman's struggle to be both heard and acknowledged as a writer attempting to navigate a male-dominated world that treats her with suspicion and some derision even when her co-workers realise how essential she is to the propaganda effort. This skeptical bunch, like top actor *Ambrose Hilliard* (a wonderful *Bill Nighy* playing himself of course), are immediately dismissive. Others like her superior *Tom Buckley* (played by *Sam Claflin*), are intrigued by her boldness and talent. Then there is

Catrin's artist husband (*Jack Huston*) who is hardly supportive of her career endeavours as he struggles with his own. Gradually, *Catrin* begins to win them over and then the real fun of making a movie comes into play.

The movie makes a strong case for the role of propaganda during wartime. 'Propaganda' is often perceived as an ugly word but '*Their Finest*' repositions it as a weapon that can be put to good use if it's placed in the right hands. It's fun to watch the Ministry trying to construct their film for maximum effect and its hilarious when, in attempting to appeal to America and encourage their involvement in the war effort, they insist on casting a real American hero, *Carl Lundbeck* (played by *Jake Lacy*) who almost steals the film with his brilliantly stiff but earnest attempts at acting. Whilst keeping



this upbeat tone the film does not shirk from showing the real effects of war on the domestic population. Cue a poignant scene where Catrin is walking down the street when a bombing raid hits. She survives, of course, but when she looks at the street scene she thinks it's covered with bodies. They turn out to be just mannequins that have been blown out of a shop window. But the horror of war hits her directly when she discovers a real body further down the street.

'*Their Finest*' is beautifully played by all the cast, including some lovely supportive work from Rachel Stirling, Eddie Marsan and Helen McCrory. It celebrates the difficulties of a woman entering a man's world and discovering that she's a talented addition serving both her art and her country. How far the introduction of a romance between Arterton and Clafin was deemed essential is open to question and audiences will no doubt make up their own minds about this. But our film is funny, delightfully sharp and uplifting. Recommended!

Doors at 7.15pm, programme commencing 7.45pm.

TONIGHT'S PROGRAMME:

Announcements

Trailers for:

'Sing' - our family Christmas show on Saturday 16th December

'Moonlight' - our main feature on 12th January (we intend to show this film with subtitles due to the nature of the dialogue)

'The Olive Tree' - our extra show on 26th January

A Short film - 'Now You're Talking' - a British propaganda film from 1944

Main feature (112 mins) with a break after about an hour

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:

