

Manchester by the Sea

Cert 15 USA 2016 137 mins

Crew

Director / Screenplay	Kenneth Lonergan
Cinematography	Jody Lee Lipes
Film Editing	Jennifer Lame
Original music	Lesley Barber

Cast

Casey Affleck	Lee Chandler
Michelle Williams	Randi
Kyle Chandler	Joe
Lucas Hedges	Patrick
Ben O'Brien	young Patrick
Gretchen Mol	Elise Chandler
C.J. Wilson	George

Synopsis

Massachusetts, the present. Lee Chandler is a taciturn loner, who works as a janitor in Boston. Shocked to learn of the sudden death of his older brother Joe, Lee returns to his home town of Manchester-by-the-Sea for the funeral, and is even more shocked to learn that Joe has made him sole guardian of his spirited 16-year-old nephew Patrick. To fulfil his obligation to Patrick, Lee reluctantly quits his job in Boston to return to the community where he was born and raised, where he has to confront issues he had tried to bury in his past.



Booking Information

Distributor: Studio Canal

DVD/Blu-ray bookings: via Filmbank

0207 984 5957/8

info@filmbank.co.uk

www.filmbank.co.uk

Available: May 2017



Reviews

There is too much going on in *Manchester by the Sea* and still it is among the best films of this or any year. It is too funny, too tragic, and too full of nods to all manner of movie genres. It is an odd couple buddy movie, a mystery unfolding via flashback, a family melodrama, a naturalistic comedy, an insurmountable tragedy and an elegy for people living with their internal flame extinguished. Miraculously, all these elements are bound together by the brilliantly humane writing of Kenneth Lonergan which is then paired with powerful performances by Lucas Hedges, Michelle Williams and Casey Affleck.

...The moving nature of this film relates to individual moments rather than a grand arc. Williams has a flair for vulnerability. Affleck has access to such ravages that it makes you wonder about the state of his soul. Hedges is a young master of comic timing. Lonergan catches you in the minutiae of ordinary living, so when the emotion of extraordinary tragedy suddenly erupts, it is stunning.

Sophie Monks Kaufmann, Little White Lies, January 2017

[The film is] an emotional tour de force by a filmmaker and writer, Kenneth Lonergan, who draws a career-best performance from Casey Affleck and lays to rest the frustrations and false starts of his last film, litigation-mired drama *Margaret*. Somehow, you emerge enriched, if a little bruised, by the experience.

Like *Ordinary People*, Robert Redford's Best Picture winner, Lonergan's film tackles the heaviest of themes, unbearable personal tragedy and guilt, although with a notably lighter touch. For every moment of heartbreak, every quiet gesture of unspeakable sorrow, there's a sharply judged laugh or killer put-down. It's gritty and often devastating, sure, but soulful and surprisingly funny with it.

...Affleck is revelatory in a role once earmarked for Matt Damon (who, with John Krasinski, originated the project). In a career full of stalwart work, *Manchester By The Sea* is the perfect showcase for his full range. From playful and boisterous to husked by sorrow, he flickers from boyish to broken as the timeline shifts. A mix of sadness, self-loathing and dormant charm, there's even something in it that recalls Brando in *On The Waterfront* — and there's not much higher praise than that.

Phil de Semlyen, Empire Online, January 2017

FILM FACTS...

- ☆ The film premiered at Sundance in February 2016, and was acclaimed on the festival circuit before theatrical release in November 2016
- ☆ Amongst many prizes, it has won two Oscars (Best Leading Actor + Best Original Screenplay), two BAFTAs (Best Leading Actor + Best Screenplay), and one Golden Globe (Best Actor - Drama).