

London Road

Cert 15 UK 2015 91 mins

Crew

Director	Rufus Norris
Screenplay	Alecky Blythe
Cinematography	Danny Cohen
Film Editing	John Wilson
Original music	Adam Cork

Cast

Olivia Colman	Julie
Kate Fleetwood	Vicky
Anita Dobson	June
Tom Hardy	Mark
Clare Burt	Jan
Paul Thornley	Dodge
Jenny Galloway	Margaret

Synopsis

Ipswich, 2006. This quiet county town of Suffolk was shattered by the discovery of the bodies of five murdered women. The residents of London Road had struggled for years with frequent soliciting and kerb-crawling on their street.

The film follows the community who found themselves at the centre of the tragic events, and is based on interviews conducted with the road's real residents. Using their own words set to an innovative musical score, it tells a moving story of ordinary people coming together during the darkest of experiences.



Booking Information

Distributor: Picturehouse Entertainment

DVD bookings:

020 7734 4342

sales@picturehouses.co.uk

www.picturehouseentertainment.co.uk

Available: Now



Reviews

Like the tale of *Sweeney Todd* but told from the viewpoint of *Todd's* curtain-twitching neighbours, the National Theatre's 2011 musical 'London Road' sang its way through the real-life 2006 murders of five Ipswich prostitutes using the real words of the people who lived doors away from their killer. The show was a sparkling, unnerving example of verbatim theatre, and now stage director Rufus Norris has brought it to cinema for his second film after 2012's *Broken*. It's an exciting, unsettling experience blessed with imagination and compassion.

.... A few well-known actors show up, including Olivia Colman, and there's a small role for Tom Hardy as a deeply creepy cab driver singing into his rearview mirror. But it's above all an ensemble piece, a portrait of a community broken and then healed, emphasised by the way colour slowly creeps into the film's face.

London Road is unashamedly British in its focus on a hungry but faux-respectful media, on tittle-tattle, on the unspoken being spoken behind closed doors and on a late blooming of regretful hugs all round. The real delight, though, is the language. You literally couldn't write this stuff, and songs like 'Everyone Is Very Very Nervous' and 'It Could Be Him' are uncomfortable earworms composed of platitudes and throwaway comments you could easily have overheard on the bus.

As a story, it honours the tragedy it's based on. But it does much more by holding up a mirror and, more importantly, a microphone to the nation we are and the one we become at times of crisis and panic. It's enthralling and haunting.

Dave Calhoun, Time Out, June 2015

...This is not a musical in the traditional sense and there are no show-stoppers that you will be humming as you leave the cinema. But that's not to say there is a lack of musicality about the work - the rhythms are addictive as are the repetitions of key phrases such as 'everyone is very nervous', allowing the key focus of the emotional journeys of the characters to be accentuated. The final resolution is both uplifting and poignant, as the negative is turned into a positive. Like me, you may even find yourself being inspired!

Louise Keller, Urban Cinefile, September 2015

FILM FACTS...

- ☆ The live film premiere was screened in participating cinemas across the UK as part of *National Theatre Live* on 9 June 2015.
- ☆ A number of the cast from the original stage production reprise their roles in the film, and several residents of the real London Road appear as extras.