

Still Life

Cert 12A UK 2013 87 mins

Crew

Director/	Uberto Pasolini
Screenplay	
Cinematography	Stephano Falivene
Film Editing	Tracy Granger
Original music	Rachel Portman

Cast

Eddie Marsan	John May
Joanne Froggatt	Kelly Stoke
Karen Drury	Mary
Andrew Buchan	Mr. Pratchett
Neil D'Souza	Shakthi
Paul Anderson	Homeless Man (1)
Tim Potter	Homeless Man (2)

Synopsis

London, the recent past. John May is a council worker whose job it is to find the next of kin of those who have died alone. Meticulous and organized to the point of obsession, and with no friends or family, John's job is his whole life.

Just as he is starting to investigate a new case - that of Billy Stoke, an elderly alcoholic - John is told that he is being made redundant. He begs extra time to complete his work - and so begins a journey to piece together Billy's fractured story, one that also begins to liberate John from the routines that have ruled his life until now.



Booking Information

Distributor: Curzon Artificial Eye
DVD bookings: via BFI Bookings Unit
 0207 957 8935
 bookings.films@bfi.org.uk
 www.bfi.org.uk/distribution

Available: Now



Reviews

Still Life is one of those films in which how it's done is more important than what is done, more about character than story, although story there is, too.

Eddie Marsan is perfectly cast as John May, a name subtle in its connotations of a nonentity with a reserved withdrawn personality. But the beauty of Uberto Pasolini's screenplay and direction is that this apparent nonentity assumes heroic proportions not for the obvious outward heroics, but for the inner and quiet humanity that drives him.

...Pasolini builds his character and his context with elaborate detail and deliberate restraint, which has its payoff in the complexity and richness of the character and the circumstances. It's not a film for the instant, just add water, take-away set. The rewards include Lisa Hall's meticulous production design plus a haunting but suitably restrained and melancholy score from Rachel Portman, a wonderfully evocative performance by Joanne Froggatt, and a gloriously conceived (and executed) magic realist ending.

Simple but not simplistic, *Still Life* is a unique contribution to British cinema, with its English restraint and eccentricity all celebrated in one rolled up human being.

Andrew Urban, Urban Cinefile, July 2014

Here is a sombre, sympathetically observed, if finally sentimental movie from Italian film-maker Uberto Pasolini, known for producing *The Full Monty* (1997). This was made two years ago and has a small role for Joanne Froggatt - smaller than her prominent position on the poster implies. Her Golden-Globe-winning appearance in *Downton Abbey* may have got this film its UK release.

The drama itself could almost be a fictional footnote to Carol Morley's great documentary *Dreams of a Life* (2011), which tried to reconstruct the life of a young woman who died alone in her London flat... It is a sad, muted film, speckled with many poignant and shrewd little visual touches about what solitude feels like.

Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian, February 2015

FILM FACTS...

- ☆ *Still Life* premiered at the Venice Film Festival in September 2013, when it won four awards, including the Orizzonti Prize for Best Director.
- ☆ Eddie Marsan won the Best British Actor award for his performance in the film at the 2014 Edinburgh International Film Festival.
- ☆ Despite these accolades, and good reception in the rest of the world, the film has only recently (February 2015) had a UK general release..