

**We Need To Talk About Kevin (2011)**

**Director: Lynne Ramsey**

**Writers: Lynne Ramsey, Rory Kinnear**

**Runtime: 110 minutes**



It seems strange to be writing about a film that was first released almost 1 ½ years ago in the UK but that, with the tragic events in Newton, Connecticut less than two months old, still feels horribly current.

But Lynne Ramsey's adaption of Lionel Shriver's best-selling 2003 novel "We Need To Talk About Kevin" is, at its heart, a deep and powerful examination of dysfunctional family life and the repercussions of terrible events on not just the family but the whole community.

Eva Khatchadourian (Tilda Swinton) is living a new life following an "incident" that has shattered her own and her community's lives. Eva was once a successful travel writer, living a rich family life in a modern home but who has moved to the suburbs at the behest of her husband (John C Reilly). Now she seeks work wherever she can find it, trying to cope with solitude, a small single-story house and irregular attacks and vandalism from her neighbours.

The catalyst for this change is Eva's son Kevin Khatchadourian who is brilliantly played as a teenager by Ezra Miller (and by Jasper Newell as a younger Kevin). Ramsey uses time, colour and sound to link the past and the present and show how Eva's chaotic life came to be and what the central and dominant causal factor within her story was – her eldest son Kevin.

Critics have pointed out the vivid and bold use of colour throughout and this alone would make a second viewing fun; the use of red is dominant whether its tomatoes paint or indeed blood. In fact, it's possible to play "tomato bingo" with references via festivals, ketchup and soup (see above, bingo!).

There has also been a lot of focus on the dreamy, fragmented and detail-heavy cinematography of Seamus McGarvey that gives the film its oppressive and chaotic feel.

Two comments seemed to sum the film up. In the Guardian, Peter Bradshaw wrote that "what American Psycho was to consumerism, We Need To Talk About Kevin is to both sexism and feminism". And writing in Time Out, Dave Calhoun described the film as part of domestic war movie and part horror movie which perhaps better sums it up!

## **FORTHCOMING FILMS**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March – Sarah's Key

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Las Acacias

## **SPECIAL NOTICE – IN DARKNESS Q&A**

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April we will be screening In Darkness and there will be a special Q&A after the film with Henry Marguiles, the son of two of the survivors depicted in the film. There will be more details on the website soon.

Please note that to accommodate the Q&A we will be starting screening at the earlier time of 7.30pm