

# CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

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## Member feedback: Beyond The Hills

31 people voted. The breakdown and comments are listed below.

### 'Excellent': 6 votes

- Accidents have multiple causes. In this case, the accident revealed the risk factors in a very closed world view, coupled with desperation. One to make us think: who do I know who might be forced into a corner like that?
- A great portrayal of the clash of civilisations and why the 21<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Centuries cannot co-exist.
- Illustrates (illuminates?) a very real problem, which will increasingly need to be addressed by the rising generations of today.
- Great cinema!
- Passed the seat test. I was spellbound. This is real tragedy in the Jean Anouilh mould. In "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest", most of the patients were also free to leave. But this had two desperately reluctant Nurse Rachets (unless the real culprit was Voichita? But she may also have been The Chief). Marlowe's Doctor Faustus was more of a tragi-comedy, but I'm minded of the penultimate line: "I cry up to my God – who pulls me down?"

### 'Very Good': 11 votes

- Wonderful cinematography. Avoids the hysteria normally associated with films dealing with exorcisms (whether told from the aspect of true possession or innocent victim at the hands of religious zealots).
- The film did not seem as long as it was. It drew you in and was totally absorbing. You gradually became aware of parallels, but the most striking aspect was the clash of two worlds.
- Just survived the Cramphorn seat test. Very gripping. Unbelievably convincing that the mediaeval and modern worlds could be so convincingly portrayed.
- Much better than "Let there be Blood". Reminds me of Scotland in the '70s.
- Totally absorbing!
- Absorbing
- A very disturbing film. The beliefs and practices of the Dark Ages in Modern Europe. Such harsh conditions, such ignorance.
- Interesting but a little too long.
- Ah, how the spirit takes you!

### 'Good': 4 votes

- Great acting and directing. The plot did nothing to shake my negative views on religion.

- Long, but loved the austere visuals & the contrast between the monastic life and the sound of planes overhead, dogs barking & mobile phones. The present day & the past together.
- Wonderful photography, character portrayal. Perfectly pitched. Storyline makes me wonder if it's real or imaginary.

**'Satisfactory': 2 votes**

- It could have been cut by an hour. Is there such a life of hardship these days? There seemed to be underlying themes – corruption, etc.
- Needed editing to 1½ hours – too long and unremittingly bleak.

**'Poor': 4 votes**

- Confirms all my prejudices
- Too depressing, by far.
- Very disappointing.
- A fantastic cure for insomnia! Utter rubbish, I thought it would never end...

**4 comments submitted without a vote:**

- Sheer misery and superstition.
- I don't know what to say!!
- At least Lizarazu went quietly
- Oh dear! I thought it would never end.

Based on the above, the film had an overall score of 3.48.