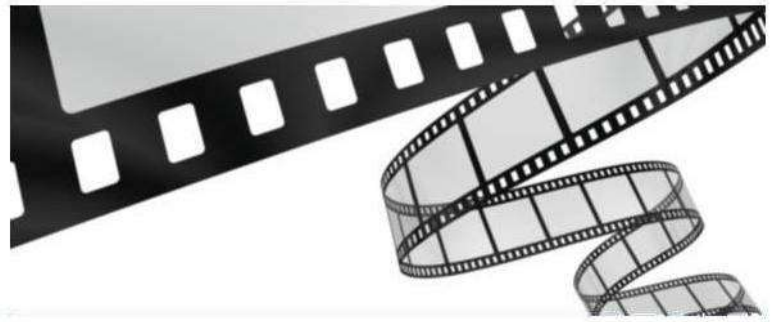


CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

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The Place Beyond the Pines (2012)

(USA) Running time: 140 mins.

Director: Derek Cianfrance

Story by Derek Cianfrance and Ben Coccio

Screenplay by Derek Cianfrance, Ben Coccio and Darius Marder

Cast: Ryan Gosling (Luke); Eva Mendes (Romina); Bradley Cooper (Avery); Dane DeHaan (Jason); Emory Cohen (AJ); Ray Liotta (Deluca); Mahershala Ali (Kofi)

A chain of events links the lives of a motorcycle stuntman and an ambitious policeman with tragic results.

The Place Beyond the Pines is the third film from director Derek Cianfrance and his second to feature Ryan Gosling. The earlier film, *Blue Valentine*, which featured in our 2011-12 season, is in the tradition of the American art film, but with *Pines* Cianfrance has produced a far more conventional, 'entertainment' film, in which narrative and genre play more significant roles. Similarly, Gosling's 'presentation' in this film, and the fact that it also features Bradley Cooper, suggests a 'star' vehicle and the very different viewing procedures associated with such a film.

If there's a problem with the film it might be that its pronounced concern with cause and effect in connection with a series of profound life changing events feels contrived at times, and the tendency for these factors to provide a kind of dramatic symmetry in the service of both meaning and the film's epic narrative feels just a little too awkward. While structure worked to the advantage of *Blue Valentine* it may be that *Pines* would have been a more successful film had it focused on character rather than structure.

Nevertheless, this is a very absorbing and elegant film, beautifully shot and edited, and with strong performances from all. And despite the rather intrusive approach to the organisation of its various elements, an unusual and provocative film.

Film note by Jon Wisbey

Our previous presentation

Based on the feedback slips returned on the night, you rated *No*, screened on 7th January, 4 stars out of 5. Please visit the current season page at <http://www.chelmsford-filmclub.co.uk> to read all the feedback comments. You can still provide feedback on this, or any other film, by visiting the Discussions page (<http://www.chelmsford-filmclub.co.uk/discussion/>).

Our next presentation: *Caesar Must Die* and *Good Night*, Monday 3rd February, 8:00pm.