

CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

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Nebraska 2013

USA 90 minutes

Director: Alexander Payne

Writer: Bob Nelson

Cast: Bruce Dern, Will Forte, June Squibb, Bob Odenkirk



Alexander Payne followed up 2011's hit movie "The Descendants" with Nebraska. With Nebraska, shot entirely in black and white (although an alternate colour cut has been shown on US television), Payne returns to two areas that he has explored before. Firstly, a number of his films, including 2002's "About Schmidt", have been set in the state of Nebraska with Payne even casting some parts locally to get the authenticity he was looking for. Secondly, Nebraska revisits the road movie territory that Payne previously explored with both "About Schmidt" and 2004's "Sideways".

In Nebraska, we follow the story of Bruce Dern as Woody and Will Forte as David, Woody's middle-aged son. Woody has received a junk mail flyer that promises him a \$1m lottery payout and to ensure he collects this he decides to travel in person to the office in Lincoln, Nebraska. David eventually agrees to drive his Dad there after he starts walking to Nebraska and, despite both their reservations about the validity of the win, the journey becomes one of discovery for David and the possible win also forces family and old business partners to face some hard facts.

The movie met considerable critical acclaim on its release and was nominated for 6 Oscars and 5 Golden Globes.

Peter Bradshaw in The Guardian wrote:

“Nebraska is shot with some severity in monochrome: it gives a wintry plainness to that roadside Americana that Payne loves to point out. He will suspend the narrative to let us look at signs for churches, motels, scout halls, and to savour their authentic lack of glamour. It is such a funny and tender film, with a superb performance from Dern and a glorious one from June Squibb, playing Woody's plain-speaking, furious wife, Kate.

Along with the hard truths, the movie has a soft heart. Perhaps punches are pulled, a little, and there are some uneasy plot transitions. Yet Nebraska is a beautifully made film: an extended epiphany of sadness and charm.”

Club notices

Our previous presentation:

“Wadjda”

23 members and guests returned feedback for the film.

From the forms returned, the breakdown was ‘Excellent’: 17 votes, ‘Very good’: 5 votes, ‘Good’: 0 votes, ‘Satisfactory’: 1 votes and ‘Poor’: 0 votes.

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:

Thérèse is showing on Thursday 22nd January 2015 at 8pm