

# CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

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## Audience feedback: Spring in a Small Town

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

### **'Excellent': 3 votes**

- In the context of China at that time (at war since 1937) this is truly a timeless classic. However, the absence of the orchestral score (as noted in the film notes) was very noticeable – sections of complete silence; such as when Yuwen was trying to smash the door pane.
- Slow and beautiful. The composition of the scenes was wonderful.
- No One Fine Day – Just Adagio Passion

### **'Very Good': 8 votes**

- Loved how different this is from a modern film. So quiet – at times totally silent, so subtle with stilted, formalised interactions which expressed so intensely the strong passions, anguish and heartache of their situation. Beautifully lit with great camera work & composition. Loved the softly-lit faces, the 2 silhouettes at the end. Not sure about the lyrics of the 2<sup>nd</sup> song – what was that about the whip?
- Lovely, but quality of the film and sound detracted from effect.
- Beautifully paced and visually fascinating. A real surprise.
- It all felt a bit like a cold shower.
- Good to see an old fashioned theme back again! Not for the modern mind.
- And the Cultural Revolution was still to come! Beautifully shot even with the jumpy camera work. Innocence personified, in some ways.

### **'Good': 3 votes**

- A film with 5 characters is always going to be like... 'Drama' = theatre! Within, clearly, the conventions of theatre – what was allowed, the 'drama' was maintained!
- The narration really made it.

### **'Satisfactory': 3 votes**

- Interesting – strange eye movements!
- Far too long. Just nothing happening, we all dozed off!!

### **'Poor': 6 votes**

- Yes, it might be nearly 70 years old and made in China, but how could this be described as a classic? Hammy acting, banal script, thin plot. Compares very poorly with British and American films of the era.

- I didn't notice "Spring"! God. Quite hard to endure. They were a miserable lot, weren't they?
- 93 minutes of my life I will never get back!
- Tooo Slow! Sometimes films are best left undigitalised!
- Boring.

**2 comment submitted without a vote:**

- Words fail me
- Painful!!

Based on the above, the film had an overall score of 2.96.