

CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

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The Sisters Brothers

Dir: Jacques Audiard. Fr/Sp/Rom/Bel/US 122 mins

This marks the Hollywood debut for the highly eclectic French Auteur Jacques Audiard and it comes as some surprise that he opts for a Western to mark this occasion, a genre that US cinema has struggled to resurrect over the decades. What is no surprise is the high quality cast that Audiard has assembled including Joaquin Phoenix and John C Reilly as the eponymous 'heroes' of the tale- Charlie and Eli Sisters. The brothers are assassins in pursuit of a gold prospector (Riz Ahmed) who has stolen from their boss. Whilst Charlie enjoys the life of hard drinking and violence, Eli is more thoughtful and yearns for a life beyond the frontier. Their encounter with their quarry and the detective also in pursuit (Jake Gyllenhaal) will test both the brother's morality, masculinity as well as their relationship when greed and avarice also surface.

Audiard's revisionist Western is a treat for lovers of the genre, mixing witty humour with heartbreaking tragedy. In the brothers we get to see how the West was through the violence and devil may care attitude of Charlie and what it will become through the more pensive eyes of Eli. There is a delightful scene when Eli attempts to embrace modernity via the purchase of a toothbrush and paste. But it is their encounter with science and progress, as demonstrated by Ahmed, that will seal their fate. This film, with its sublime imagery and off beat yet witty screenplay feels like it may have come from the early 70s. For many, that is no bad thing either.

Our next screening is **CUSTODY** on **Thursday 9th January**. . PLEASE NOTE; in response to a request from members at the recent AGM, the club will be holding a **discussion event** after this screening. It will be held in the foyer of the Cramphorn Studio and will be a chance for members to reflect on the season so far; all are welcome.