

CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

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Tuesday 23rd January: The Eight Mountains 2023

Italy/Belgium 147 mins

Directors: Felix van Groeningen & Charlotte Vandermeersch

Writers: Paolo Cognetti, Charlotte Vandermeersch & Felix van Groeningen

Cast:

Alessandro Borghi (*Bruno Guglielmina*); Luca Marinelli (*Pietro Guasti*); Alex Sassella (*Bruno's Father*); Filippo Timi (*Giovanni Guasti*); Elena Lietta (*Francesca Guasti*); Lupo Barbiero (*Young Pietro*); Cristiano Sassella (*Young Bruno*); Andrea Palma (*Teenage Pietro*); Francesco Palombelli (*Teenage Bruno*)

Holidaying with his family in the Aosta valley in the Italian Alps in the mid-1980s, 12-year-old Pietro befriends local boy Bruno, and they spend an unforgettable summer together in the valley. But when Pietro's father, Giovanni, suggests that Bruno should return to Milan with them to study, he inadvertently drives a wedge between the boys.

In adulthood, Pietro drifts away from his parents, whilst Bruno finds a surrogate father figure in Giovanni, who returns to the valley each summer. It is only after his father's death, that Pietro realises he has missed out on knowing his father at his happiest and most fulfilled. Retracing his father's steps Pietro is reacquainted with Bruno, they renew their friendship and together they embark on a project that may help them bridge the lingering emotional crevasse.

Adapted from the 2016 novel by Paolo Cognetti, it's set in the pristine, cathedral-like Alpine valley of Aosta, including the slopes of Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn – though the 'eight mountains' of the title refers to the peaks of Nepal: a symbol of overarching ambition and conquest.

In adapting Cognetti's bestseller, Belgian husband-and-wife team; writer/actress Charlotte Vandermeersch and director Felix van Groeningen (*The Broken Circle Breakdown*) have created a rich and suitably novelistic world, full of details slowly accrued in a way that mimics the ancient glacial landscapes of its setting. Featuring breathtaking cinematography by Ruben Impens, *The Eight Mountains* is a real achievement, a quiet, subtle and compelling study of an intense and transformative friendship and a look at how nature enters the soul.

Our next presentation:

[A Matter Of Life And Death](#) will be shown on Wednesday, 14 February, starting at 8:00pm.