

CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

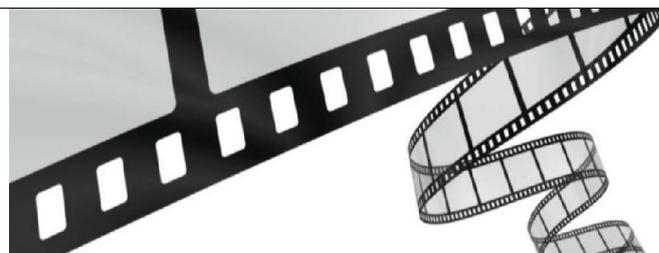
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FOUR MOTHERS Wednesday 15 October 2025 89 mins.

Some Club members, and guests, may have seen, or heard of, the 2008 Italian film *MID-AUGUST LUNCH*, directed by Gianni Di Gregorio, described by some as a 'modern classic'.

FOUR MOTHERS is ostensibly a re-make of the Italian film, transported from Rome to Dublin. In Rome, the ever-present 'glue' tying the bachelor to his needy mother is 'food'. In Dublin it could be said to be 'gayness'.

James McArdle plays Edward, a writer of novels for Young Adults and a gay man. On the verge of literary stardom, he needs to go on an upcoming promotional tour to the USA - in late 2025 we could ask whether his tour would be in jeopardy due to his books being banned in some U.S. states? But he has to take care of his widowed mum, Alma (Fionnula Flanagan) who cannot speak after suffering a stroke. There is some droll comedy with a Stephen Hawking voice enunciating crisp commands from her iPad.

Into the mix come three more elderly women needing care, the mums of Edward's gay male friends who want to get away for a weekend Pride festival. He doesn't seem to have any non-gay friends, male or female. A decent chap, Edward tries his best to cope, suffering his private disappointment and unresolved anger towards his late father.

Unlike our last film, Peter Bradshaw was somewhat reserved about his endorsement of *Four Mothers* and its ability to "charm the viewer", compared to the Italian original. But there were glowing 'likes' from many viewers on the IMDb website. So it will be even more interesting for the Club to see what our audience thinks. Do, please, 'react' by filling in the reaction slip at the end of the film or commenting via the website.

Our next screening; '**THE LINE WE CROSSED**', 110mins, on Monday 20 October. This is a widely acclaimed documentary about the ongoing situation in Gaza, and replaces our advertised film *SANTOSH* which is no longer available. There will be a chance for a Q & A session led by the director of the film after this screening.