



ORANGES & SUNSHINE (2011)

★★★★★

CERTIFICATE - 15 (UK)
DIRECTOR - Jim Loach
CAST - Emily Watson, Emily Watson, Hugo Weaving, Tara Morice, Richard Dillane
RUNNING TIME (APPROX) - 105 minutes

Review by Daniel May

Watching the news this time last year, I witnessed Gordon Brown (then Prime Minister) making a public apology to over 130,000 former child migrants; and in my ignorance, or lack of knowledge, I had no idea why. On educating myself on the reasoning for this shocking apology, I was disgusted with what I learned. So, when I heard that up-and-coming big screen director Jim Loach was turning the horrific ordeal into a film, I knew it would be worthy of my time.

Oranges and Sunshine is based on the true events of how, for many decades, children in care in Britain were shipped off to Australia without the permission or awareness of their parents. In many cases the children were told that their parents were dead, and the parents were left in the dark about their own flesh and blood's fate. Many of the children suffered disgusting abuse by the foster families and state-run facilities that were supposed to be looking after them.

The film is based on this appalling real-life occurrence, telling the tale of the feature's protagonist, Margaret Humphreys, the social worker who in the 1980's discovered that the children in care, many decades before, had been taken from their parents. *Oranges and Sunshine* conveys her tireless struggle - continuing still to this day - to reunite thousands of migrants with their real families and to get them the justice they doubtlessly deserve.

Emily Watson takes on the role of Margaret Humphreys and does the gallant women complete and utter justice. In fact, the feature is full of great performances that really highlight and put into context the suffering that these unfortunate children had to endure, not only in early life, but in adulthood, too. Hugo Weaving is outstanding, as is David Wenham, both of whom take on parts of adult men who were migrant boys, struggling to make sense of their harsh childhoods and the lack of identity they were left to feel.

If you fancy a grounding cinematic experience, and one that will ultimately put parts of your own life into perspective, *Oranges and Sunshine* is definitely worth viewing. **You can catch a showing of the film at Cinema City during April.**

CAVE OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS IN 3D (2011)

By Sam Leonard

CinemaCity



The Eagle



Thor 3D

MAIN FEATURES

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1-14 APR | ORANGES AND SUNSHINE (15) |
| 1-14 APR | SOURCE CODE (12A) |
| 1-21 APR | CAVE OF FORGOTTEN DREAMS 3D (CERT TBC) |
| 12-14 APR | THE PORTUGUESE NUN (CERT TBC) |
| 15-21 APR | THE EAGLE (12A) |
| 15-28 APR | LITTLE WHITE LIES (15) |
| 22-28 APR | CLOSER TO THE EDGE: TT 3D (CERT TBC) |
| 22-28 APR | KILLING BONO (15) |
| 26-28 APR | MY AFTERNOONS WITH MARGUERITTE (U) |
| 29 APR - 5 MAY | ADELE BLANC-SEC (15) |
| 29 APR | THOR 3D (CERT TBC) |
| 29 APR | MEEK'S CUTOFF (CERT TBC) |
| 29 APR | THE SILENT HOUSE (15) |
| 29 APR | ESSENTIAL KILLING (15) |

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In late December 1994 three friends were embarking on a short caving expedition in the south of France. Jean-Marie Chauvet and his team decided to investigate a group of caves which they had previously not considered of any interest; in doing so they accidentally discovered one of the most significant prehistoric art sites in the world.

The Chauvet Cave, as it is now known, contains perfectly preserved cave paintings, depicting at least thirteen different species, including horses, cattle, lions, panthers, bears, rhinos and even hyenas. The artists used techniques not often seen in other cave art, making the Chauvet Cave an important record of Palaeolithic life in all of its savage detail.

Fear of damage from exposure to light and even human breath has meant that only a tiny handful of researchers have witnessed the paintings in person.

In 2009 filmmaker Werner Herzog was granted permission to shoot in the Chauvet Cave, with



access strictly limited to a few hours per day and to a two-foot-wide walkway, using specially designed 3D cameras and battery-powered lights that emit no heat.

The resulting film, *Cave of Forgotten Dreams*, had its preview at the Berlin Film Festival and arrives in Norwich on 1st April.

Herzog's use of 3D really brings to life these beautiful works of art and the breath-taking cathedral-like cave with its towering stalagmites. The director uses his unique access to this treasure trove of Palaeolithic masterpieces to muse on the immensity and fragility of man's progress. Herzog combines his gifts as a conjurer of unforgettable images, explorer of forbidden landscapes and poetic philosopher to illuminate and celebrate the earliest recorded visions of humanity.

***Cave of Forgotten Dreams* is showing at Cinema City from 1st April.**