

PENINSULAR PIX PRESENTS

Tattingstone Village Hall - 8pm Thursday 7th June



Frances McDormand (Mildred)
Hail Caesar! (2016)
Promised Land (2012)
Moonrise Kingdom (2012)
Burn After Reading (2008)
The Man Who Wasn't There (2001)



Woody Harrelson (Willoughby)
LBJ (2016)
The Hunger Games Trilogy (2012-15)
No Country For Old Men (2007)
Natural Born Killers (1994)
Indecent Proposal (1993)



Sam Rockwell (Dixon)
Seven Psychopaths (2012)
Conviction (2010)
Moon (2009)
Frost/Nixon (2008)
Galaxy Quest (1999)
The Green Mile (1999)

Director: Martin McDonagh - *Seven Psychopaths* (2012), *In Bruges* (2008)

Writer: Martin McDonagh - *Seven Psychopaths* (2012), *In Bruges* (2008)

Country: UK/USA

Language: English

UK release date: 12th January 2018

Certificate: 15

Plot Summary

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri is a darkly comic drama from Academy Award nominee Martin McDonagh. After months have passed without a culprit in her daughter's murder case, Mildred Hayes makes a bold move, painting three signs leading into her town with a controversial message directed at William Willoughby, the town's revered chief of police. When his second-in-command Officer Dixon, an immature mother's boy with a penchant for violence, gets involved, the battle between Mildred and Ebbing's law enforcement is only exacerbated.

P.T.O.

REVIEW

Robbie Collin - (Telegraph)

In the wake of his acclaimed 2015 theatre piece *Hangmen*, the British-Irish filmmaker and playwright Martin McDonagh has come blazing back to the cinema with this outstanding cinder-black revenger's comedy. Even more so than McDonagh's first film, the Pinteresque hitman comedy *In Bruges*, *Three Billboards* feels like a kind of high-intensity comedic circuit training, and causes strains and burns in ethical muscles you didn't even realise you had. It is a film that continually forces you to interrogate your own reactions to it - both in terms of what you're laughing at and why - and also in the way its characters continually defy your burnt-in expectations of what they'd do, and what might be done to them in turn, in a better-behaved, more formulaic script.

At first, you think you know where things are going. Frances McDormand stars as Mildred Hayes, a grieving mother who wages war on her local police department after their investigation into her teenage daughter's rape and murder putters to a halt. Riding into town with a twang and a chime from Carter Burwell's playful spaghetti-western score, she walks into the local advertising agency like a gunslinger moseying into a saloon. After some vinegary back-and-forth, the firm's young proprietor rents her a trio of dilapidated hoardings on the town's outskirts, onto which she pastes a message to the local sheriff, designed to shame him and his officers into action.

The stage is set for a battle of wills on a Godzilla-versus-King Kong scale, and the film obligingly plays along at first. Dressed in no-nonsense Rosie the Riveter overalls, Mildred is on what she assumes is a straightforward quest: she wants justice and/or revenge - if the two are even different things - and is prepared to burn down the entire town in pursuit of both. And Willoughby, a family man with an iron will and an allergy to stupidity, is a worthy rival. Though you'll know them when they happen, Harrelson's best moments are harder to discuss because they come when McDonagh sends the story screeching off in some wholly unexpected directions, many needlingly provocative, one laceratingly sad. All involve to a degree Willoughby's blockheaded deputy Dixon, a vindictive racist and homophobe who seems to be in the job purely for its skull-cracking possibilities.

Yes, the film stings. It's supposed to. But McDonagh lets no-one, least of all his audience, off the hook.

Film notes researched by Annie Owen

Tickets are £4.50 on the door or £4.00 in advance from The Wheatsheaf, Stutton Community Shop, The Case is Altered, Bentley Community Shop, Marilyn (328876) or Annie (311462). Or, try our text service – just text your name and number of tickets required to 07732 709656.