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FILM REVIEW: Kenneth Branaghâ??s BELFAST

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

Kenneth Branaghâ??s *Belfast* from Focus Features tells a humorous, tender, and intensely personal story of one boyâ??s childhood during the tumult of the late 1960s in the city of Branaghâ??s birth. *Belfast* is an impeccable work based on Branaghâ??s own upbringing in Belfast in the late 1960â??s.

The soundtrack features a plethora of Van Morrisonâ??s greatest hits, including a newly written song for the film, adding joy and optimism to the challenging circumstances a young couple is facing with their young children. Their nine-year-old boy must chart a path towards adulthood through a world that has suddenly turned upside down. His stable and loving community and everything he thought he under the formative magic of the movie

(L to R) Caitriona Balfe as â??Maâ?•, Jamie Dornan as â??Paâ?•, Judi Dench as â??Grannyâ?•, Jude Hill as

â??Buddyâ?•, and Lewis McAskie as â??Willâ?• in director Kenneth Branaghâ??s BELFAST, a Focus Features release. (PHOTO Credit : Rob Youngson / Focus Features)

The c ardÂ® winner Judi Dench, Jamie Dornan and Balfe play a passi nd Hinds as the quick-witted grand ovacik, and Tamar Thomas.

Caitriona Balfe (left) stars as â??Maâ?• and Jamie Dornan (right) stars as â??Paâ?• in director Sir Kenneth Branaghâ??s BELFAST, a Focus Features release. Credit : Rob Youngson / Focus Features

Exquisitely executed cinematography by Haris Zambarloukos, Director of Photography, utilizes various camera angles reminiscent of Alfonso Cuaronâ??s *Roma* and is simply a visual delight. Befitting the 1960â??s the production design from Jim Clay hit the mark with a splattering of classic 1960â??s vehicles, urban sidewalks, and building facades to match. The hair, make-up, and costuming donned by the handsome and vivacious actors are a feast for the eyes. Wakana Yoshihara and Charlotte Walker handled the respective departments.

Actor Jude Hill (left) on

the set of BELFAST, a Focus Features release. (PHOTO Credit: Rob Youngson/Focus Features)

The beautiful and talented *Belfast* actors were cast by Lucy Bevan and Emily Brockman. Ã?na NÃ DhonghaÃle (*The Crown*) nailed the editing as she managed to draw the viewer into the 1960â??s world and keep them there with seamless continuity. And, as mentioned, the music is from the Belfast-born legend, Van Morrison.

Said K

Kenneth Branagh introduced his latest film, Belfast, at the

Werner Herzog Theatre as part of the 48th Telluride Film Festival, Thursday, September 2nd, 2021. (Photo by Larry Gleeson/HollywoodGlee)

â??Belfast is a city of stories and in the late 1960s it went through an incredibly tumultuous period of its history, very dramatic, sometimes violent, that my family and I were caught up

> in. Itâ??s taken me fifty years to find the right way to write about it, to find the tone I wanted. It can take a very long time to understand just how simple things can be and finding that perspective, years on, provides a great focus. The story of my childhood, which inspired the film, has become a story of the point in everyoneâ??s life when the child crosses over into adulthood, where innocence is lostâ?¦â?•

Belfast, written and directed by Kenneth Branagh, has a perfectly directed runtime of 97 minutes, a compelling storyline, and is so technically proficient that it appears to be an early favorite for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Oscar Awards for best film and best director. Highly recommended!

******Belfast*** began its theatrical release on November 12th, 2021, and recently screened November 5th, at Landmarkâ??s Tivoli Theatre in University City, Missouri, as part of the 30th Annual Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival, November 4 -21, 2021.

Category

1. Feature Film
2. St. Louis International Film Festival
3. Telluride Film Festival

Tags

1. Belfast
2. Kenneth Branagh
3. SLIFF
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