

FILM REVIEW: Jane Campionâ??s The Power Of The Dog

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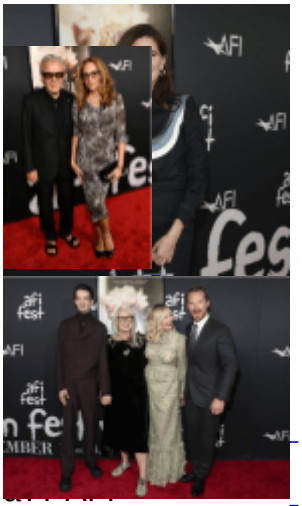
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DOG: BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH as PHIL BURBANK in THE POWER OF THE DOG.
(Photo credit: KIRSTY GRIFFIN/NETFLIX Â© 2021)

Jane Campionâ??s latest work, *The Power of the Dog*, screened as part of a Red Carpet Premiere at the historic Chinese Theatre in Hollywood California, during the American Film Instituteâ??s AFI FEST 2021, on Thursday, November 11th. Campion is a New Zealand screenwriter, producer, and director. She is the second of seven women ever nominated for the Academy Award for Best Director and the first female filmmaker to receive the Palme dâ??Or; both of these achievements came for *The Piano (1993)*.



Director Jane Campion â?? AFI FEST 2021 Red Carpet Premiere Screening of THE POWER OF THE DOG, TCL Chinese Theatre, Los Angeles, California, Nov. 11, 2021 â?? Photo Credit: John Salangsang/AFI/Shutterstock





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d by Campion, is set in 1925 Montana and circles around two nching operation. The Burbank brothers, played by Jesse e across as polar opposites. Phil Burbank, played by Cumberbatch, is an infamous Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Yale University who prefers the daily grind of working the ranch with the hired hands. Cumberbatch brings a deep dark presence to the character in what might be his best performance to date. Plemmons plays Gordon Burbank, the slower, mild-mannered younger brother, embodying a ranch gentleman with grace and style. Kirsten Dunst portrays Rose Gordon, a compelling love interest as a saloon-style restaurant owner who serves dinners to the locals with her son, Peter, portrayed by Kodi Smith-McPhee in a breakout performance.

While *The Power of the Dog* is set in Montana, the actual film location is New Zealand â?? adding a surreal quality. And, Campionâ??s writing matches it full force. The twists and turns in the dramatic, psychological, roller-coaster ride narrative combined with Cumberbatchâ??s powerful, dark character portrayal set the audience on the edge of their seats and their eyes fixed on the big screen. Undoubtedly, Campion is in the mix for her second Oscar for screenwriting and appears to be in the mix for a directorial nod as well.



Q & A, on

November 11th, 2021, following the screening of The Power of the Dog, inside Hollywoodâ??s TCL Chinese Theatre. (Photo by Larry Gleeson/HollywoodGlee)

Following the screening, a fun-filled Q & A unfolded as the filmâ??s actors, editor, cinematographer, and director sparred, cajoled, and informed under the watchful eye of moderator Hahn as she effectively marshaled the energies of *The Power of the Dog* conversation. *The Power of the Dog,* set for a December 1st, 2021, release date, is a magnificent and majestic work tantalizing and titillating â?? a bonafide Oscar contender for now â?? in multiple categories! Highly recommended. One of the yearâ??s best films!



Benedict Cumberbatch as Phil Gordon in Jane Campionâ??s The Power of the Dog, set for a December 1st, 2021 release. (Photo Cr. KIRSTY GRIFFIN/NETFLIX Â© 2021 Cross City Films Limited/Courtesy of Netflix)

Until next time, Iâ??ll see you at the movies!

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Tags

1. Benedict Cumberbatch
2. Jane Campion
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Date Created
November 18, 2021
Author
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