



The Danish Girl

Description

In Director Tom Hooper's (*King's Speech*, *Les Misérables*) latest work, *The Danish Girl*, Brit Marling and Eddie Redmayne deliver tour-de-force performances as Einar and Gerda Wegener, a loving Danish couple, struggling with transgender issues that culminates in the world's first sex reassignment surgery.

Redmayne's performance is generating significant Oscar buzz with most pundits proclaiming it his best performance to date surpassing last year's Oscar winning portrayal of Steven Hawking, in Director James Marsh's *Theory of Everything*.

And not to be overlooked is Marling's screen steadying influence as Gerda. Gerda witnesses her husband Einar's metamorphosis with a strength steeped in loving kindness.

Marling's momentum gathering acting locomotion is not going unnoticed. She received double nominations from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for Best Actress for her work in *The Danish Girl*, and Best Supporting Actress for her work in *Ex Machina*, in the upcoming 2016 Golden Globes.

I saw *The Danish Girl* last night at the Paseo Nuevo theater in Santa Barbara. Critics are praising the film for its arthouse aesthetics and its delicate handling of an oh so often not talked about rather taboo topic of (until the recent emancipation of Caitlyn Jenner) transgenderism.

In my opinion, Hooper's work adds value to the transgender movement in attracting a more traditional audience segment with its exquisite 1920's European mise-en-scene and its well costumed, stellar acting corps.

Eve Stewart again handles Hooper's production design providing a familiar look and style along the lines of *King's Speech* and *Les Misérables*. Paco Delgado follows suits as he costumes in a fashion recognizable from his wardrobe work in *Les Misérables*.

In addition to Redmayne and Marling's immersive performances, American actress Amber Heard provides a delightful respite as Ulla from the film's resounding seriousness while Belgian Matthias Schoenaerts provides a decidedly masculine presence as Hans Axgil during Einar's metamorphosis into

Lili Elbe.

Accomplished composer and Frenchman Alexandre Desplat scores *The Danish Girl* with a subtle nuance augmenting Hooper's genteel helming.

The Danish Girl was adapted from American David Ebershoff's book of the same name published in 2000. Wholeheartedly recommended.

Category

1. Uncategorized

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