



**CHILTERN
FILM
SOCIETY**
at The Elgiva, Chesham

Programme notes 49th season

If you want to submit a rating and comment after leaving the Elgiva, please send them in by email to info@chilternfilmsociety.org.uk to arrive by the Saturday following the film.

Member ratings and comments are listed in the Programme section of our website www.chilternfilmsociety.org.uk

Programme for tonight, Wednesday 20th September 2017

[Moonlight](#)

USA, 2016, Barry Jenkins, Drama, 111 minutes (15)

Set in Miami, following the impact of a young man's upbringing, relationships and surroundings across three periods of his life. Won 2017 Best Picture Oscar. "A luminous coming-of-age heartbreaker." – The Telegraph.

Programme for Wednesday 4th October 2017

[The Eagle Huntress](#) (subtitled)

UK/Mongolia/USA, 2016, Otto Bell, Documentary/Adventure, 87 minutes (U)

A stunning and inspiring documentary that feels like a fairytale, set in the Altai mountains of Mongolia. It follows 13-year-old girl Aisholpan's talent in the Kazakh tradition of eagle-hunting that has been handed down for centuries.

Your comments on [A Quiet Passion](#), the first film of our 2017-18 season, shown on 6th September, 2017.

Members' rating 56%. A – 14, B – 13, C – 19, D – 13, E – 11. 70 votes from 116 members signing in.

Members' comments:

'A' (excellent) – A very moving story: great first film of the season. What a joy to hear good English well spoken: A remarkable portrayal of the subject. A film that required great concentration: Poetry is hard to grasp on one hearing, but I was absorbed by trying! Where any frame could be seen as a professional picture, the film is a piece of art as well as a film. Beautifully crafted: Bleak and brutal. A complex and moving story, simply told and beautifully portrayed and filmed: Interwoven with her incredible poetry, must find one of those 6 biographies! Excellent direction. Spellbinding in all respects. It took a little getting into – more like a play than a film – but well worth sticking with: A moving tribute to the human condition. Beautifully made: The dialogue was so quick-fire, it was hard to keep up! Thought-provoking: mesmerizing. Gorgeous and extremely moving.

'B' (very good) – A beautifully made film which conveyed the torpor of the time, while celebrating the sparkling wit of Dickinson: Cynthia Nixon was superb. So much death and claustrophobia, but such was life – and longing – in that world: Did they always speak in such well-turned phrases? The slow pace and intensity in almost a single set conveyed what life must have been like for a woman of feeling and intelligence in a society of rigid norms: Less a quiet passion than one seeking the right form of expression. Wonderful dialogue. Terence Davies once again proves sensitive to the nature, dreams and disappointments of women. A powerfully understated performance by Cynthia Nixon: Brilliant script. Could have been pacier but well acted. Startlingly well made and cast, though a trifle long.

'C' (good) – Really good performances and incredibly moving, but maybe a bit too long. Beautiful film but slightly disappointing: Poetry beyond my understanding but fell in love with her voice. Was good. Interesting but overlong. Sometimes as excruciating to watch as her life must have felt to live: thought-provoking and carefully filmed: Not really sure if I am glad to have watched it or feel much improved by it, nevertheless and impressive effort. A film as tedious and gloomy as her poetry, but I guess that was the idea: Saved from a "D"

(rating) by production, acting and humour. Brilliant cinematography, lighting and acting, however it is a bit too long and feels lacking in something. Of its era. Thoughtful, an unfulfilled life. Well acted and crafted but overlong and possibly over-indulgent. Depressing and draining: Scenes of death and suffering far, far too long: I did wonder if it was the director's view which made her life so depressing? What about her sister? A really interesting story about an individual I knew nothing about, but a little long. The lighting was excellent but the film too long. May be a great poet but why make it so long and put in so much dying? Cynthia Nixon outstanding. Camera work frustrating: could have been 30 minutes shorter. Not for me! I can only agree with Mr Bowles' character's description of "a literacy of misery": Self-indulgent and dreary.

'D' (fair) – A little depressing to start the season with: It took a while to adjust the ears to the speech and poetry: For a while it felt interesting, but then lost it in depression. Well written, directed and acted but well boring: Sorry, not one for me. Now I know what purgatory is like: Fine central performance but people don't speak in epigrams: 30 minutes too long. Raised to a "D" *(rating)* only by the three good actors playing the sisters and sister-in-law fighting: Appalling, unsayable script and awful fellow actors. I was enjoying it, but as her character developed and she became more embittered, I found it increasingly tedious. And too much death! Stunning cinematography: Shame about the story. Too long and drawn out. Good lighting: Overall too long, too much illness and death, though well acted. I'm probably swimming against the tide, but I found it rather dull. Stifling and tedious, like Emily's life. This film won't send me rushing to search out ED's life story or poetry: There were other aspects of her life not covered and as a result we didn't get a rounded view of the person: Also, it seems ironic that most of her poetry quoted in the film followed a similar rhythm and cadence to Longfellow, who she thought so little of.

'E' (poor) – I thought the film was overlong and over sentimental: Technically good, but not enough. Bad script: Unimaginative camera work. Boring and depressing: The last thing I wanted to watch. Had the seats been comfier, I would have fallen asleep: The film was as slow and painful as Emily's death. Overlong and overbearing: Just utterly dreadful: I lost all sympathy for Emily ☹. Mannered and boring. Probably a very good film but not for me. Quietly unpassionate ☹.