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A Royal Affair En kongelig affære

Denmark 2012

Directed by
Nikolaj Arcel**Sreenplay**
Rasmus Heisterberg
Nikolaj Arcel**Cinematography**
Rasmus Videbæk**Original Music**
Cyrille Aufort
Gabriel Yared**Cast**
Alicia Vikander
Caroline Mathilde
Mads Mikkelsen
Johann Friedrich
Struensee
Mikkel Boe Følsgaard
Christian VII
Trine Dyrholm
Juliane Marie

137 min Subtitles

Our next screening...

The Kid with a Bike (Belgium)

Tue 16 October 2012

Dir: Dardenne Brothers

Young abandoned boy
rescued by kindness.

Following our bonus film *Heima* last week, a very warm welcome to the first film of our stunning new season. We start in style with an exquisite costume drama from Denmark based on the novel 'Prinsesse af blodet' by Bodil Steensen-Leth.

Sex, death, power, intrigue, corruption, Rousseau and several blokes off *The Killing*: *A Royal Affair* has it all. It's also based on a true story which, incredibly, has never been adapted for film before: that of Caroline Mathilde, the 15-year-old English princess who, in 1766, was packed off to wed the newly crowned Danish king. While Mikkelsen and Vikander are both excellent, Følsgaard stands out with a dynamic performance. Arcel's film succeeds by prizing characterisation over historical detail, establishing the central trio as red-blooded, complex individuals, each driven by their passions and given to irrationality at times. They are never reduced to mere pawns on a historical chessboard.

Sophie Ivan, Little White Lies

Not content with showing us how to make TV cop shows, the Danes are upstaging Brits in our most natural cinematic territory – the costume drama.

Alex Zane, The Sun

From Denmark comes this sensational period drama recounting the illicit romance between that country's former queen, Caroline Mathilde, and the royal physician. It is a clear-eyed, morally nuanced and beautifully mounted picture: terrifically Danish on all counts. Arcel gives this true story the shape and bite of a well-crafted fiction, and its political themes are every bit as stirring as the romance. Mikkelsen, a deserving award winner at Cannes this year for another film, can speak paragraphs with a single curl of his lip, and Vikander fluoresces as the young royal consort.

Robbie Collin, Daily Telegraph

A Royal Affair - out of Zentropa (Lars von Trier's company) – stars snake-lipped ex-Bond villain Mads Mikkelsen. You could call the film, with apologies to *Pulp Fiction*, a *royale* with cheese: lots of 18th-century court shenanigans, flavoured with hokum. The movie is oddly gripping. Gripping, because history decided here to sketch a chapter stranger than fiction. Odd, because the film plays like a Dogme95 weirded-out tragicomedy – school of *Festen* or *The Idiots* – afflicted with costumes rather as a person might be afflicted with psoriasis.

Nigel Andrews, Financial TimesVoting for *Heima*: A-36 B-30 C-7 D-2 E- 1 Attendance: 82 Rating: 82%