

Fish Tank

UK 2009

Director

Andrea Arnold

Written by

Andrea Arnold

Director of Photography

Robbie Ryan

Music Supervisor

Liz Gallacher

Cast*Mia*

Katie Jarvis

Connor

Michael Fassbender

Joanne

Kierston Wareing

Tyler

Rebecca Griffiths

Billy

Harry Treadaway

123 minutes

As we head into our final four films of the season at The Screen, we'd like to give you advance notice of two additional screenings we've arranged. More details to follow, but please add to your diaries:

- *Wasteland* at Disc Centre (25 May)

- *The Illusionist* at The Point (28 Jun)

Fish Tank was shot in sequence, the script revealed piecemeal to the actors, so Mia turns on Connor as much as she turns to him, and Jarvis' surprise at the twists and turns of the story ring authentic. Laced with colourful language, none more shocking than the confrontational abuse that tumbles out of little sis' mouth, plus underage drinking and sex, the BBFC are to be commended for awarding the film a 15 cert, allowing its target audience access to a bold, emotional, home-grown winner. Lit in drab greys and harsh streetlamp oranges, *Fish Tank* is not pretty to look at, and you wouldn't want to live next to this dysfunctional lot. But at its heart is a streak of humanity. Jarvis is the discovery of the year, while Arnold has just stepped up into the same league as those masters of kitchen sink classics, Ken Loach and Alan Clarke.

Bob Daniel, Sky.com

Not since the early days of Jane Campion (*The Piano*) has international cinema seen a talent as fearlessly attuned to the primal female voice as the Dartford-born writer-director Andrea Arnold. Within the space of only two features and one Oscar-winning short film (*Wasps*), Arnold has articulated an unnerving, bleak but always compelling worldview where hard-knock women and sado-masochistic desires collide. Andrea Arnold's brave female take on sink-estate survival is a diamond in the rough.

Kevin Maher, The Times

It was clear from *Red Road*, Andrea Arnold's darkly compulsive tale of surveillance and revenge in Glasgow, that a distinctive new British filmmaker had arrived on the scene. We need all of these we can get, so praise be that Arnold's follow-up, *Fish Tank*, has the same confident signature. The sinuous camerawork of Robbie Ryan prowls around a housing estate, this time in Essex, and the story is a collision course whose precise moment of impact we can't guess. If this is social realism, it's a kind with prickly cinematic voltage and no redundant lesson to teach. It's tremendous. Arnold works wonders almost everywhere in this film: the drip-drop drabness of kitchen-sink drama is stilled, alive, and newly dangerous.

Tim Robey, Daily Telegraph

Our next screening...

Run Lola Run (Ger)

Tue 19 April 2011

Dir: Tom Tykwer

Rare chance to see this high-octane, 1998 cult classic on the big screen.



Voting for *Departures*: A-54 B-16 C-4 D-0 E-0 Attendance: 84 Rating: 91.9%