

Sightseers

UK 2012

Directed by
Ben Wheatley**Director of Photography**
Laurie Rose**Original Music**
Jim Williams**Screenplay**
Alice Lowe
Steve Oram**Cast**
Alice Lowe
Tina
Steve Oram
Chris
Eileen Davies
Carol
Richard Glover
Martin

88 min

*The last screening this season...***Where do We Go
Now? (Lebanon)**

Tue 14 May 2013

Dir: Nadine Labaki

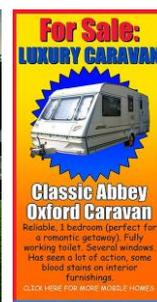
Women try to ease
religious tensions in their
village. Comedy-drama.

Every season when the committee whittle down a long, long list to just 16 films, there are one or two that really intrigue us and we can't wait to see. *Sightseers* is that film for 12/13!

There is no direct French translation for the word 'sightseers', so Ben Wheatley's new film is titled *Touristes in Cannes*, where it has screened as part of Directors' Fortnight. In a way, that's perfectly fitting: this flesh-creepingly funny comedy turns into something that, rather worryingly, you can't imagine happening in any other country but England. Lowe and Oram's script balances nimbly on the thread of razor wire between horror and farce: the film is frequently laugh-out-loud funny but the couple's crimes are never trivialised, and many of the death scenes are squirmingly vivid. Director Ben Wheatley, whose outstanding hit man thriller *Kill List* was another accomplished genre-straddler, wisely plays things dead straight, and his director of photography Laurie Rose gives the Yorkshire and Cumbrian landscapes a dewily gorgeous sheen. Tina and Chris's odyssey feels like a strange regression into Britain's dark and feral roots, and it has the terrifying ring of truth.

Robbie Collin, Daily Telegraph

Ben Wheatley is the outstanding young British film-maker who got himself talked about with his smart debut *Down Terrace*; then he scared the daylight out of everyone, as well as amusing and baffling them, with his inspired and ambiguous chiller *Kill List*. His talent and signature are vividly present in every frame of this new movie, *Sightseers*, a grisly and Ortonesque black comedy about a lonely couple played by co-writers Steve Oram and Alice Lowe. Again, Wheatley is adept at summoning an eerie atmosphere of *Wicker Man* disquiet; the glorious natural surroundings are endowed with a golden sunlit glow and the trips to quaint venues of local interest are well observed: particularly Tina's heartbroken solo excursion to the Pencil Museum. All this makes an ineffably strange combination with the fear and the violence and the bizarre sociopathy. The problem is that the combination can only go so far: it doesn't seem to develop into anything else. These reservations are offset by the absolute confidence and visual style that Wheatley always shows. From the very first, as Tina's mother keens and growls with grief and despair at the departure of her beloved Puppy, he creates a weird world, entirely of itself.

Peter Bradshaw, The GuardianVoting for *The Guard*: A-40 B-14 C-6 D-4 E- 1 Attendance: tbc Rating: 83.8%