

# I Am Love

Italy 2009

**Directed by**  
Luca Guadagnino

**Screenplay**  
Barbara Alberti  
Ivan Cotroneo  
Walter Fasano  
Luca Guadagnino

**Director of Photography**  
Yorick Le Saux

**Music**  
John Adams

**Cast**  
*Emma Recchi*  
Tilda Swinton  
*Edoardo Recchi Jr, 'Edo'*  
Flavio Parenti  
*Antonio Biscaglia*  
Edoardo Gabbriellini  
*Elisabetta Recchi, 'Betta'*  
Alba Rohrwacher

120 minutes Subtitles

Welcome to another action-packed, emotion-filled, quality season presented by Winchester Film Society. Usually the opening film notes refer to snuggling up with our selection to fight off the winter blues, but of course it's been hot, hot, hot! So let's settle down, relax and unwind in the Screen's wonderful air-conditioned cinema and enjoy tonight's classy opener. It's great to be back!

In every sense, *I Am Love* is a stunning achievement. Luca Guadagnino does more than expertly craft space; he exposes the world of a wealthy Milanese family with astonishing accuracy, recalling Visconti in his ability to analyze upper-class mores and make them feel vital. Marked by flawless art direction and casting, this is the sort of film that sends viewers racing back to the helmer's earlier pics, asking "What did I miss?" While not populist enough to become a hit, *I Am Love* is the kind of exceptional Euro arthouse film that will generate buzz worldwide. Every camera angle is interesting and confident without being showy, just like the family itself, while small, quick details beautifully underline emotions. Yorick Le Saux's quietly brilliant lensing reinforces the necessary integration between the superb set design and the

actors, and John Adams' music, including excerpts from his operas, are exquisitely chosen.

Jay Weissberg, *Variety*

Tilda Swinton is spectacular and, having been involved in the project from its inception seven years ago, it's of little surprise that she plays the role as if it were written for her. Aside from its powerful visual achievement, *I Am Love* is a superbly executed melodrama. The delightfully eccentric soundtrack captures Emma's capricious and frenzied state of mind, the French horns pouting and hustling together into a disorienting orchestral jazz score. One of the most beautiful pieces of cinema we've seen in a good while. There are glimmers of the old Italian and French masters in *I Am Love*, but far from being stuck in the past, it combines everything warm and atmospheric in celluloid with a satisfying digital clarity. *Simon Jabloski, Film4*

## STOP PRESS:

We are delighted to announce that director Matt Harlock will be attending our screening of *American: The Bill Hicks Story* on Tues 29 Nov. Matt will introduce the film & hold a Q&A afterwards. Put the date in your diary & spread the word!

Our next screening...

Poetry (S.Korea)

Tue 18 October 2011

Dir: Chang-dong Lee

Marvellous life-affirming film that won best screenplay at Cannes.



Voting for *The Illusionist*: A-31 B-16 C-1 D-0 E-0 Attendance: 51 Rating: 90.6%