

PATERSON

USA

JIM JARMUSCH



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“Awesome – a bus driver that likes Emily Dickinson!” one character marvels at Paterson (Adam Driver) midway through Jim Jarmusch’s beguiling new film. Paterson drives the No 23 through the New Jersey town with which he shares a name. His life seems repetitive and boring in the extreme. He takes the same walk to work.

He has the same conversation with his supervisor, whose car is always breaking down, whose wife is always complaining and whose kids are always ill. He takes the bus along the familiar route. Then he goes home. He walks the dog. He stops by for a drink at the local bar. He chews the fat with the barman. “Same old, same old,” the barman always says when asked about his life.

He sleeps with his girlfriend Laura (Golshifteh Farahani). Then he does it all again. It’s a *Groundhog Day*-like existence, numbing and constricted, but Jarmusch makes it seem as if Paterson is his very own Garden of Eden.

It’s as if the director is setting himself the same challenge that his lead character faces, namely finding comedy, novelty, drama and magic in the minutiae of

daily life. The film unfolds over the course of a week. Paterson, played with wide-eyed innocence and good nature by Driver in a role a long way from Kylo Ren in *Star Wars*, positively radiates contentment.

Jarmusch, meanwhile, manages to provide his audience with the same little pleasures that the bus driver so enjoys. We eavesdrop with Paterson as he listens to his passengers chattering away about everything from anarchy to imprisoned boxer, Reuben “Hurricane” Carter.

One of the pleasures, here as with so many of Jarmusch’s films, is the absolute resistance against conventional Hollywood storytelling. There isn’t conflict. Paterson doesn’t have any goal here beyond a vague desire to see his poetry in print – and that itself is something his girlfriend feels far more strongly about than he does.

This is a movie in which very little happens. The film proceeds at the same deliberate pace that Paterson drives his bus. Somehow, the repetitions don’t chafe. They give the film its distinctive rhythm and unlikely charm.

Godfrey Cheshire, rogerebert.com

WRITER: Jim Jarmusch **CINEMATOGRAPHY:** Frederick Elmes **MUSIC:** Jim Jarmusch, Carter Logan, Sqürl

POEMS: Jim Jarmusch, William Carlos Williams, Ron Padgett

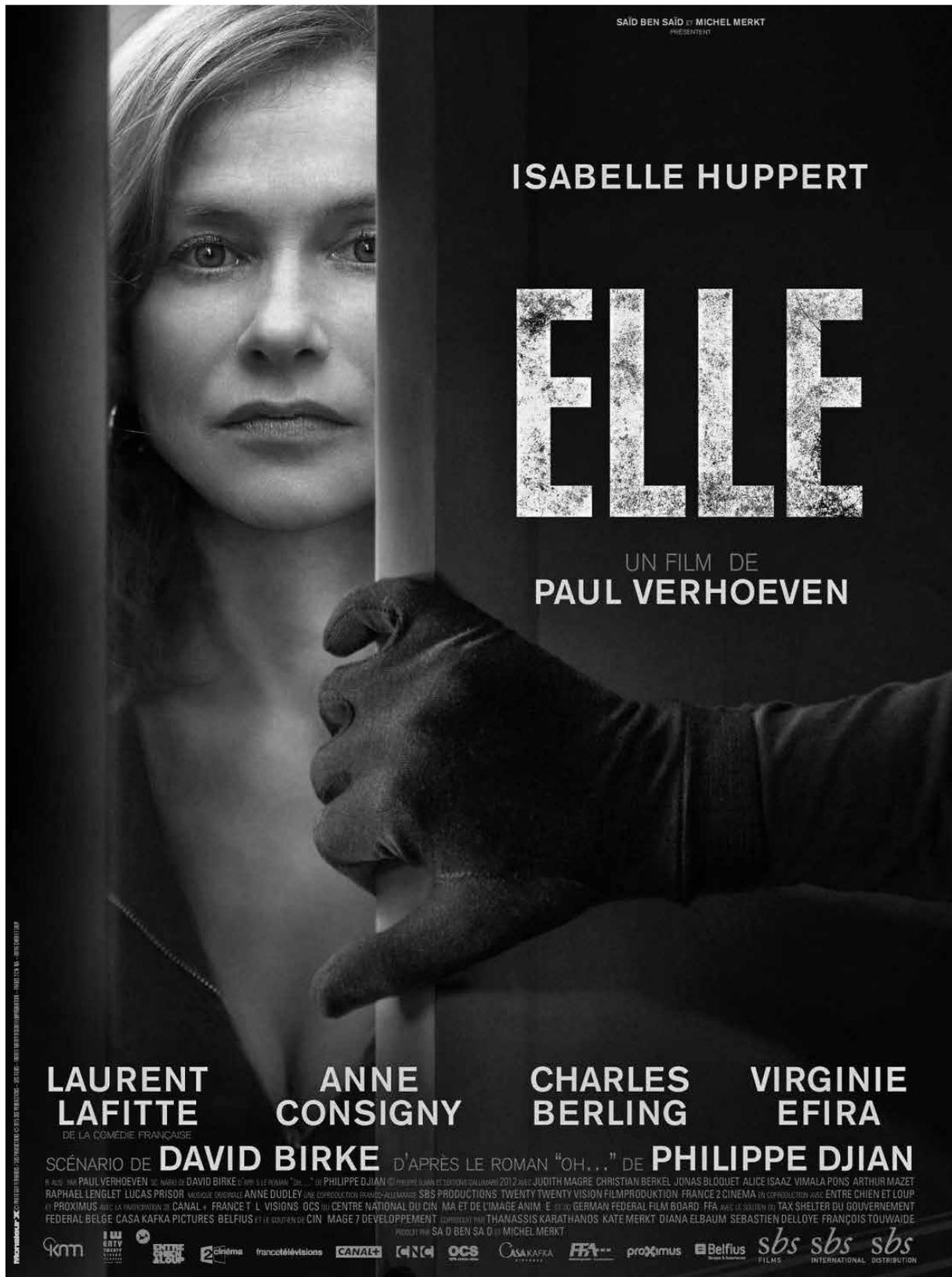
CAST: *Paterson* Adam Driver | *Laura* Golshifteh Farahani | *Marvin* Nellie | *Donny* Rizwan Manji

VOTING FOR GRADUATION A20 | B58 | C18 | D4 | E0 | Rating 73.5% | Attendance 106

Next screening | **Elle** | Tuesday 1 May 2018 8.00pm

‘...a maze of ambiguity, scrambling our assumptions and expectations at every turn...’

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