FILMBOX | Langley Park Centre for the Performing Arts | Cinema for All | Neighbourhood Cinema

Thursday, 23 November 2023
Performance Hall, 7:30 pm



A Man Called Otto

UK, 2022, 15, 2 hr 6 mins
Director: Marc Foster
Writer: David Magee
Producers: Fredrik Wikström Nicastro, Rita Wilson, Tom Hanks, Gary Goetzman

Otto is a grump who's given up on life following the loss of his wife, and wants to end it all. When a young family moves in nearby, he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol, leading to a friendship that will turn his world around.

Cast includes:

Tom Hanks	Otto Anderson
Mariana Treviño	Marisol
Rachel Keller	Sonya
Manuel Garcia-Rulfo	Tommy
Truman Hanks	Young Otto Anderson

Film Notes by David Fowler

A Man Called Otto's lead character is a grumpy, gloomy widower struggling to find meaning in life following the loss of his wife – and almost giving up the struggle. Can his life be turned around?

If this sounds familiar it might be because you remember **A Man Called Ove**, screened by FILMBOX in 2017. Based on a novel by Fredrik Bachman, the original was a darkish comedy/drama – a Scandi noir comedy? – which became a big hit in its home territory.

This Hollywood remake relocates the action to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with Tom Hanks in the starring role.

Grouchy Otto snaps at everyone and seems to find a purpose in life only in upbraiding neighbours and locals for flouting neighbourhood rules on parking and litter. In the film's darkest moments he seriously contemplates ending it all. Flashbacks shed light on Otto's past and the pivotal relationship of his life with his late wife Sonya (played by Rachel Keller).

But then a lively young Mexican family – Marisol (Mariana Trevino), her inept husband Tommy (Manuel Garcia-Rulfo), and their young daughters move in across the street. Marisol can't understand why Otto is always so spiky. As events throw them together – the family are constantly suffering crises or needing assistance – can she succeed in helping Otto to see life in a different light, and lifting his gloom?

The original **A Man Called Ove**, with Rolf Lassgård (Swedish TV's **Wallander**) in the lead role, remains the third-biggest film of all time in Sweden. A remake has to rise above just being a copy of the original in a different language – from that point of view, **A Man Called Otto** gets a definite boost from Hanks's star power. Playing "America's grumpiest man", as the tagline has it, is a definite departure from Hanks as we've known him in recent years, and goes very much against the grain of expectations. But it's a typically excellent performance, in which Hanks finds humanity and warmth to bring what could have been an unsympathetic character to life.

Among the supporting cast, Mariana Treviño comes close to stealing the show as the effervescent Marisa. Juanita Jennings has a memorable role as one of Otto's neighbours, and Hanks's son Truman makes his acting debut as the younger Otto in flashbacks.

It's not giving anything away to say that **A Man Called Otto** eventually reaches a heartwarming destination – but its interest lies in the unusual route it takes to get there.

FILMBOX

LANGLEY PARK CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

CINEMA FOR ALL

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Our Next Presentation



Thursday, 7th December 2023

In the Performance Hall at 7.30pm

Matilda, the Musical

UK/US, 2022, PG, 1 hr 57 mins
Dir: Matthew Warchus
Comedy, Drama, Family, Musical

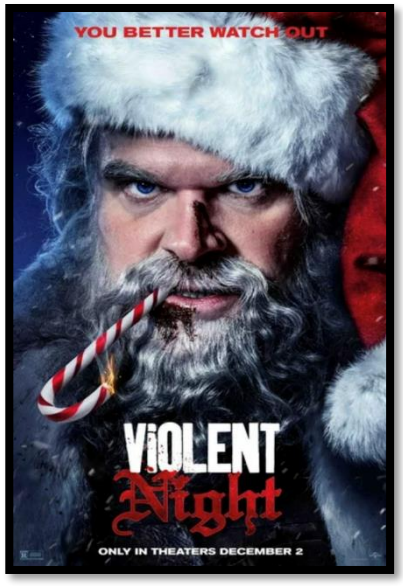
An adaptation of the Tony and Olivier award-winning musical. Matilda tells the story of an extraordinary girl who, armed with a sharp mind and a vivid imagination, dares to take a stand to change her story with miraculous results.

In Studio 609 at 7.45pm

Violent Night

US, 2022, 15, 1 hr 52 mins
Dir: Tommy Wircola
Action, Comedy, Crime

When a group of mercenaries attack the estate of a wealthy family, Santa Claus must step in to save the day (and Christmas)



Latest Audience Film Ratings

How did you like our recent offerings? % voting "Excellent" or "Good"

