FILMBOX

LANGLEY PARK CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

CINEMA FOR ALL

NEIGHBOURHOOD CINEMA

Wednesday. 5th June 2024
Studio 609, 7.30pm



Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret

US, 2023, PG, 1h 56m
Director: Kelly Fremon Craig
Writer: Kelly Fremon Craig
Producers: James L. Brooks, Julie Ansell, Richard Sakai, Kelly Fremon Craig, Judy Blume, Amy Lorraine Brooks, Aldric La'auli Porter
Comedy, Drama, Family

When her family moves from the city to the suburbs, 11-year-old Margaret navigates new friends, feelings, and the beginning of adolescence.

Cast includes:

Abby Ryder Fortson	Margaret Simon
Rachel McAdams	Barbara Simon
Kathy Bates	Sylvia Simon
Benny Safdie	Herb Simon
Elle Graham	Nancy Wheeler

Film Notes by David Fowler

Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret is a drama dealing with a rare subject area in cinema – the anxieties of navigating the precarious middle ground between childhood and adulthood – adapted from Judy Blume's much-loved, ground-breaking 1970 novel of the same name.

It begins with 11-year-old Margaret and her parents moving from a New York City apartment to suburban 1970s New Jersey. This also means leaving behind parental grandmother Sylvia, with whom Margaret has a strong bond.

Margaret finds herself in uncharted waters with anxiety arising from numerous sources – the need to settle in to a new school and neighbourhood; ambivalence about religion; and perhaps most of all impending puberty, which she is both impatient for and fearful of. She is soon recruited into a secret friendship group for members of her school class by near neighbour Nancy, where boys and the onset of periods are the main topics of discussion.

With a Christian mother and Jewish father Margaret has been brought up non-denominationally, but speaks to a non-specific god in her own way about her worries.

Meanwhile Margaret's mother Barbara is also on a journey of self-realisation – having given up her job as an art teacher in New York, she is frustrated as a stay-at-home mum and by the politics of the parent-teacher association.

The film boasts excellent performances both from Abby Ryder Fortson as Margaret, and the supporting cast, in particular Rachel McAdams as Barbara. Director Kelly Fremon Craig, mainly known as a screenwriter but who wrote and directed the coming of age comedy-drama **The Edge of Seventeen** (2016), has sensitively adapted the book while fleshing out the adult characters, and lightens the overall tone with moments of comic relief.

Judy Blume (now 86) was one of the producers, and is reported to have declared the adaptation "better than the book" – which itself was named Outstanding Book of the Year by *The New York Times* in 1970, and included in 2010 in *Time* magazine's All-Time 100 Novels written in English since 1923.

Overall, **Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret** is a sympathetic adaptation of a novel much loved by many, a drama about a girl impatient yet unready to grow up that will appeal to an audience of all ages.

FILMBOX

Our Next Presentations



Thursday, 20th June 2024
In Studio 609 at 7.30pm

The Three Musketeers: D'Artagnan

15, France/Germany/Spain/Belgium, 2023, 2h 4m
Dir: Martin Bourboulon
Action, Adventure, History

D'Artagnan arrives in Paris to join an elite unit of swordsmen, and aligns himself with Athos, Porthos and Aramis, three musketeers of the King. He finds himself embroiled in intrigue in which the future of France is at stake.
In French, with subtitles, this is the first of a two-part epic saga based on Alexandre Dumas's 1844 novel ***The Three Musketeers*.**



Thursday, 4th July 2024
In Studio 609 at 7.30 pm

The Miracle Club

12A, Ireland/UK, 2023, 1h 30m
Dir: Thaddeus O'Sullivan
Comedy, Drama

Three generations of close friends from Ballygar, outside Dublin, win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes. Just before their trip, a long estranged friend Chrissie arrives for her mother's funeral and joins them. Along the way, old wounds are reopened, forcing the women to confront their past.

Latest Audience Film Ratings

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

