

British Film Festival - Dinard 2023



Blue Jean : a controversial movie

Imagine being in the 80's in a divided England with laws against minorities. We follow the story of Jean, a lesbian woman who's learning to assume herself in the society. Blue Jean is a drama written by Georgia Oakley released on the 19th, April 2023. Jean, the main character played by Rosy McEwen, is a P.E teacher in the school of Newcastle in 1988. Her sexuality makes herself feel uncomfortable at her work and with her family. Moreover, the new laws of the government don't help her to accept who she really is. That has consequences in her sentimental life, indeed we can sense the tension with Jean's girlfriend, Vivianne (Kerrie Hayes).

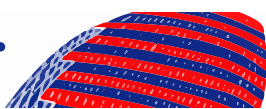
The turning point starts with the arrival of a new student Lois (Lucy Halliday). From the beginning, she is bullied because she seems different. Indeed her difference with the other is that she is lesbian. The troubles started when Jean saw Lois in the night-club she frequented. After that Jean is going to hide herself from everything to not be involved in a controversial situation with that student. However, when another student got jealous of Lois because she thought that Jean preferred her, she kissed Lois in the changing room and accused her in front of everyone that Lois made a sexual assault on her. The fact that Jean saw everything in this changing room and said nothing to defend Lois shows her lack of confidence. At the end of the film she realized her mistakes and apologized to Lois by introducing her to her community.

We asked people what they thought of the movie and their opinions were very different.

- "The topic of the film was very interesting and encouraged people to open their minds on the LGBTQIA+ community".
- "It showed that women can have troubles in life even if it was forty years ago. It's a relatable main character".
- "I thought that the movie had a lot of cliches. Not all lesbians have short hair or tattoos. The aim of the film is important but I was a bit disappointed with how the film was made".

In conclusion, if you want to make your own opinion on Blue Jean, go watch the film. And have fun!

by Lucie Droguet, Sarah Fegar, Clara Faisant





Emily Brontë: An eventful life

Emily Brontë was a famous writer of the 19th century who wrote one of the best novels in English history: Wuthering Heights, published in 1847. She had a very eventful life explained in the movie Emily released in 2022 in the United Kingdom.

This biographical drama movie is about the story of the Brontë family. Frances O'Connor the director decided to give her point of view about how hard it was for her, and generally for all women, to fight against patriarchy and the fact that their life was stolen from them.

In the family Brontë father had four children: Anne, Charlotte, Emily and Branwell. Their mother is unfortunately dead. They lived in a remote area, more precisely in Northern England. The movie begins with the arrival of the second protagonist: William Weightman, a young student from London who has the vocation to become a priest. To recall, the Anglican priest can be married, William takes advantage of this law aiming firstly Charlotte Brontë. Charlotte is seduced, her who works as an institutor for young ladies. However, it turns out that William is not on every lady who met his glamorous eyes. It is the reason why Emily decides to protect her daughter and to prevent her from the pangs of love. Moreover, Emily is a special one, she likes weird stories, created by herself and Anne, which are completely delightful but not for anyone, for Satan. Even her closest sister Anne begins to avoid it. Furthermore, Branwell is the big brother, he begins his life with success in university but finished as a low one, utterly drugged by opium.

They adventure meet at one point, and it is where everyone turn around someone, it is Emily, the protagonist of this movie. She tried to work as an institutor with her daughter Charlotte and she didn't success. Therefore, she learnt French with William, and fell in love with him. Their relation is so magnificent and adorable... It remains one of the most powerful loves I've ever seen in a movie. Unfortunately, their view of life, moral, and perception are antithetic which induce lot of confronts between the two protagonist and creates an awful and unpleasant final misunderstanding.

Everything could go quite smoothly without Branwell's actions which lead to death... Branwell intervenes in the two protagonist's love affair and cause lots of struggles. We can question why he did that... The reason is far beyond your expectation and is morally inconceivable, even for an artist.

Besides, Emily is a story where grown poetry and passion for art. This passion is revealed by the original and beautiful taste of the author, who allows times of contemplation in his movie. A movie which takes times to confront passions and arts. Arts are led by passions, and its sickness, love, can be too much for humans to endure when a material distance disturbs their desires. Thus, in Emily, it is only when love follows this rule that a book is written...

All this vision of Emily to promote an incredible movie. I hope it can be a motive to go and watch the film in the cinema, a film which is composed by great actors such as Emma Mackey. Otherwise, another hope: that it may lead you to read an unavoidable book to detain an English culture.

Ambroise, Adam, Tom et Malcolm.





The lonely and modern life of Emily

In this review, we are going to present the movie « Emily » directed by Frances O'Connor and release on march 15th 2022.

It's the story of a English writer in the early 19th century, the sister of Charlotte Brontë, the famous author of Jane Eyre. We follow the teenage years of Emily, played by Emma Mackey, in a conservative England where women are not allow to pursue their dreams. She is both berated and neglected by her father (Adrian Dunbar), a widower and parish priest, while he showers all his favor on Brontë's older sister Charlotte and older brother Branwell. However, Emily is considered as the black-sheep in the family, because of that, she seek her father's attention but she never receive any, it cause her a terrible sadness that lasted her whole life .

The protagonist, Emily, went through a tough life because of her introvert personality. Because of it, she was seen as the « weird girl » in town. What nowadays, is considerate as a quality, was in the past a default : it was forbidden for girls to think by themselves, the imagination was more of a weight for them.

There's a modern dimension in the film through the character of Emily. She has an avangardist mindset in the wrong time. She also has a inter-course with a new curate who is also her French teacher.

Emma Mackey did a really good job as she succeed in picturing the complexity of the tormented soul of Emily Brontë. We can see a real chemistry between her and her love interest played by Oliver Jackson-Cohen.

The film received a lot of good critics Emma Mackey received the best actress and audience award and the best director award went to Frances O'Connor.

by Maiwenn, Héloïse, Lou-Ann & Aude