

Peterborough Arts Cinema

Films that make you think

Thursday 14th September at 19:30

Manchester by the Sea

(2016)

15 | 2h 17min US

Director; Kenneth Lonergan

Stars; Casey Affleck, Michelle Williams, Kyle Chandler

Lee Chandler is a brooding, irritable loner who works as a handyman for a Boston apartment block. One damp winter day he gets a call summoning him to his hometown, north of the city. His brother's heart has given out suddenly, and he's been named guardian to his 16-year-old nephew. As if losing his only sibling and doubts about raising a teenager weren't enough, his return to the past re-opens an unspeakable tragedy.

Winner 2 Oscars; Best Actor, Best Original Screen Play



Casey Affleck Interview;

Growing up in Cambridge, Mass., Casey Affleck began acting as a way to get out of going to school. His mom's best friend was a local casting director, and every now and then a movie would come to town and a call would go out for extras. "So me and my friends ... we'd get to be an extra in a movie, which to us meant nothing more than a day off from school."

On the scene in *Manchester by the Sea* in which his character goes to a morgue to identify his brother's body

Kenny [Director Kenneth Lonergan] very wisely kept a great distance with the camera. ... It was one of the most surprising moments in my career because I knew ... it wasn't scripted to be a very emotional scene — [Kenny] wanted it to be kind of a surprise, that the character identifies the body and that's it. However, when I entered into the scene and I walked up to the body, I was really moved. ... I was visibly upset, I was crying and I kissed Kyle Chandler, who was playing the part [of the brother] laying on the slab there. But Kenny's camera — he's put it at a distance, as many of the shots in the movie are these kind of wide shots ... and he didn't want to see too closely all of the feelings that the character is having.

On how he first got into acting

The person who directed the plays at my high school came to me and said: "We're doing a musical. We have 19 girls and we need one male at the very least to play the male lead." And I considered another summer of baseball or a summer in the basement of the theater department with 19 girls who otherwise would never have spoken to me. And so thus began my career as an actor.

On his brother, actor/director Ben Affleck, casting him in the lead for *Gone Baby Gone*

At the time, I think people only knew Ben from certain movies he was doing as an actor and they didn't think that he could direct. I think a lot of people passed on the part, or enough people passed on it. While I was shooting *The Assassination of Jesse James By the Coward Robert Ford* in Canada, he showed up, he came up to Calgary, and he said, " ... Would you do the movie?" I really didn't have to think about that either, because ... I knew that he was very, very bright, super smart guy and would make a great director and we have similar tastes in movies and in acting styles and we have a shared language that makes it really easy to work together. And we are brothers and grew up looking after each other, so the getting-to-know-you period that wastes the first few weeks of any movie in the relationship between an actor and a director — being polite and trying to understand what the other person is saying — we didn't have to go through that. We just sort of jumped right into it.

On his father's drinking problem

I was aware of his drinking. I was aware that he was an alcoholic and that he behaved badly ... in the way that a kid is aware of those kinds of things. I became more aware of it, I guess, as I got older and his problem got worse. Ultimately he wound up getting sober and pulling himself together and we have a great relationship and he has been sober since I was 14 years old. Edited by Alex O'Reilly

