

Chester Film Society presents

Close

France/Netherlands 2022 | 1hr 44m | Cert 12

Director: Lucas Dhont

Starring: Eden Dambrine, Gustav De Waele, Emilie Dequenne, Lea Drucker

Synopsis

Devastating drama in which the move to high school forces two lifelong 13-year-old friends, Leo and Remi, apart and leaves one of them struggling to understand what happened to their friendship. Struggling to understand what has happened, Léo approaches Sophie, Rémi's mother.

Critical acclaim

"For Rémi, Léo's sudden decision to break up their friendship has the same effect as his mother deciding to put him up for adoption, or the sun not coming up in the morning. It is a violent, unspeakably painful rupture that Rémi does not have the language to explain to himself. He is perhaps mature in ways that Léo is not... it is not a question of being mature: he is just upset, or more than upset. There's no doubting the force of this drenchingly sad story." *The Guardian*

"Builds upon the promise of 2018's *Girl*, confirming Dhont as a deft and empathetic chronicler of the tumultuous anguish and ecstasy of adolescence." *Mark Kermode, The Observer*

"Dhont's visuals are strong and sumptuous and he coaxes spellbindingly naturalistic performances from first-time actors Dambrine and De Waele, but a gulf in tone separates both halves of his film." *The Independent*

"Dambrine's performance is by some distance one of the most extraordinary by a child his age I've ever seen: tempered, tightly wound, as truthful as a flower." *Financial Times*

"Dhont has elicited remarkable performances from these striking boys after six months of rehearsals, establishing relationships and gradually introducing the camera so they became accustomed to it -- and they seem not to be acting towards it." *London Evening Standard*

"Dhont tells a familiar story in what feels like a fresh and urgently new way, with sensitivity, sadness and promising glimmers of hope." *Washington Post*

"What Dhont understands, in short, is how kinetic the rites of passage are—how growing pains are expressed not in words, however therapeutic, but in rushes of activity." *New Yorker*

"In the pantheon of films about the pains of leaving childhood behind -- *The 400 Blows*, *The Spirit of the Beehive*, *Rocks*, *The Go-Between*, *Boyhood* et al -- we should find a spot for this beautiful elegy of lost innocence from Belgian director Lukas Dhont." *Time Out*

Conclusion

"Close" is a film about friendship & responsibility. With excellent performances from its young protagonists, it takes you back to the awkwardness of 'big school', draws you in and breaks your heart.

Our next film:

Clara Sola. Showing March 21st 2024

7.30pm (doors 7 pm)

At The Garret, Storyhouse

www.chesterfilmsociety.co.uk

Please rate tonight's film using the scale below. We welcome your comments! Detach and hand in as you leave.

| ---- I loathed it ---- | ---- I disliked it ----- | ----- It was OK ----- | ----- I liked it ----- | -----I loved it ----- |

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10