

Saint Maud (Members' Choice)

Director: Rose Glass. UK, 2020. 84min. (15)

With: Morfydd Clark, Jennifer Ehle, Lily Knight



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31-year old National Film & Television School graduate Rose Glass, who was working five years ago as an usher at the Curzon Mayfair, wowed critics with her hugely acclaimed debut film *Saint Maud*. Voted no 5 in the Sight & Sound Critics' Best Films of 2020 Poll, it was also embraced by audiences, securing second place behind *Tenet* on its opening weekend.

The religious themes of the film can be traced to Glass' youth: the granddaughter of a vicar, she attended a Catholic convent school. She has wanted to be a director since she was 13, at which age her father gave her a copy of David Lynch's experimental horror *Eraserhead*; the early horror movies of David Cronenberg and Darren Aronofsky, which she saw as "my sort of cinema", are also cited as influences. Despite this, *Saint Maud* is difficult to classify in terms of film genre; Glass says she wrote and directed it as a "fun, messed-up character study".

The film is powered by an outstanding central performance from Welsh actor Morfydd Clark (seen previously at WFC in *Love & Friendship* and *The Personal History of David Copperfield*) as the eponymous palliative care nurse. Strong support is given by Jennifer Ehle (Elizabeth Bennett in the iconic BBC TV adaptation of *Pride & Prejudice*) as her patient.

Post-screening Q&A with the co-producer of *Saint Maud*, Oliver Kassman.

"Played with brilliant, blood-freezing intensity by Morfydd Clark, Maud is a genre anti-heroine to cherish, protect and recoil from, sometimes all at once" Guy Lodge, Variety

"Set in a desolate English seaside town, the kind of economically depressed area that already looks hellish and abandoned. Glass has an uncanny sense of how to use the environment to reflect her main character's fragile mental state" David Sims, The Atlantic

London Critics Circle Awards: Best British/Irish Film, Best British/Irish Actress, Breakthrough British/Irish Filmmaker. British Independent Film Awards: Best Cinematography, Best Debut Director.

You can rate the film by a show of 1 - 5 fingers (5 = top) at the door on the way out. A committee member will be noting the scores.

You can also comment on: Twitter @wfc screenings ; the WFC Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WimbledonFilmClub/> ; or by email to info@wimbledonfilmclub.com

Please dispose of these notes yourself or take them with you. Thank you!