

The Lighthouse (Members' Choice)

Director: Robert Eggers. USA, 2019. 110min. (15)

With: Robert Pattinson, Willem Dafoe



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The Lighthouse, set in late 19th century Nova Scotia, is the second film from director Robert Eggers, whose debut chiller *The Witch* was released to wide acclaim in 2015. The script, co-written by Eggers and his brother Max, is inspired partly by an original idea from the latter, and partly by a 'true' story about two stranded lighthouse keepers in early 19th century Wales (both, as in the film, named Thomas).

Robert Eggers has commented that *"my entire process is research-based. With the creation of the physical world, the material world, I'm trying for it to be as accurate as possible ... it's the approach that works for me."* The script draws on a wealth of research including into lighthouses, lighthouse-keepers' journals, the maritime community, dialect studies, food and clothing. The lighting and filters used by cinematographer Jarin Blaschke (who earned an Oscar nomination) produce an effect redolent of the photography of the period. *The Lighthouse* is shot on 35mm film in the aspect ratio popular in early sound cinema (producing a square rather than rectangular image), and using vintage lenses, including one from 1912.

"Ultimately, it becomes a fully-fledged phantasmagoria as you wonder what's real and what isn't and whether that is important. In this instance, not really, as the film is always intriguing and tense and you become invested in both characters ... As for the writing, it's so dazzling it may well blow your mind." Deborah Ross, *The Spectator*

"Like Mark Jenkin's Bait, the whole film feels like an artefact dredged up from the ocean floor ... It is perfectly possible to admire the film and to still feel that it amounts to little more than a storm in a teacup. A painstakingly sourced authentic period teacup with original 19th-century patterning, of course, but a teacup all the same." Ryan Gilbey, *New Statesman*

Cannes Film Festival International Critics Prize (Robert Eggers); Independent Spirit Awards Best Supporting Male (Willem Dafoe) and Best Cinematography; American Society of Cinematographers Spotlight Award (Jarin Blaschke)

Short film *CANDLE COPS (2020)* will be shown before the main screening. We welcome its director Tony Collingwood who joins us tonight.

You can rate the main feature 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!