

Common People

UK | 2014 | 89 mins | Cert 12

Directors: Stewart Alexander, Kerry Skinner

Cast: Sam Kelly, Jeff Mash, Diana Payan, Sidney Cole



SYNOPSIS

Six stories of disparate Londoners become intertwined when they encounter an escaped parrot in this bitter-sweet tale of love, loss and life on a London common. With raw, funny, and compelling performances from a talented ensemble of actors aged seven to seventy, Common People touches on many of the issues affecting ordinary people today in a heartfelt, poignant and ultimately uplifting celebration of everyday humanity.

REVIEWS

"Common People is a rare gem, the kind that makes you thrilled to have discovered it. With no real expectations I started to watch this wonderful film, expecting a gentle reflective hour and a half - but Common People is so much more than that. With beautiful performances and a quiet firmness it pushes you to an understanding of human motive and love that is intensely moving and highly rewarding. I recommend this so highly."

Stephen Fry

"Common People is one of the most heart-warming films I've seen this year. It's a beautiful tale that is both funny and heart-wrenchingly poignant. With an outstanding performance by the late great Sam Kelly, Common People is one of the most moving films I've seen all year."

Number 5 in Fraking Films' Top 10 Films of 2014

"Alexander's script deftly captures the sense of community that prompts strangers to make the effort to communicate with each other or do good deeds. Sam Kelly and Diana Payan stand out as the pensioners relishing each other's company, while Skinner amuses as the naive singleton awaiting the birth of an unknown soldier's baby."

Radio Times

"Focusing on a disparate bunch of Londoners roaming Tooting Common (including a bankrupt single dad, a homeless man, and some birdwatching boy scouts) this bittersweet comedy-drama, made by a husband-and-wife filmmaking duo on a shoestring budget, recalls 2006's *Scenes Of A Sexual Nature* in its rambling episodic nature.

Like that film, it's very much a whimsical soufflé with a generous side-order of twee - and occasionally iffy acting. That said, there's some incredibly good (and very funny) dialogue here, and an innate sweetness and charm that offsets its air of post-recessional malaise. One anti-bankers rant, in particular, will have you cheering".

Ali Catterall, Total Film, 19 June 2014



DID YOU KNOW?

- Producer/Directors, Stewart Alexander and Kerry Skinner appeared on BBC quiz *Pointless*. They reached the final and won the £1,000 jackpot, and a *Pointless* trophy, by finding actors from Cult indie films.
- After the film didn't attract a distributor on the festival circuit, the producers secured a one-off screening at one London cinema on January 19th, 2014. It went on to sell out for nine weeks in a row (playing every Thursday and Sunday) at which point Picturehouse Cinemas offered to give the film a nationwide release in the UK on June 10th, 2014

Awards and Nominations

- ReelHeART International Film Festival 2014
- Winner of festival prizes - Sam Kelly, Best Actor and ReelHeART (Indie Spirit) Award

COMING UP NEXT...

Friday 26th January 7:45pm

EAGLE HUNTRESS

Thirteen-year-old Aisholpan trains to become the first female in twelve generations of her Kazakh family to become an eagle huntress.

Cert U, 87 mins

www.highworthfilms.org.uk