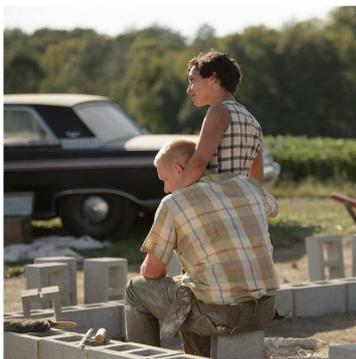


Loving – Review

Loving is a quiet, **powerful** film about one of America's most **historic** cases, the Civil Rights-era. However, Jeff Nichols' **admirable** new feature Loving approaches its subject matter from a very different **angle**. Its perspective is that of an **interracial** couple Richard and Mildred Loving (Joel Edgerton and Ruth Negga), who are planning to get married and start a family.

As the film starts, Mildred is already **pregnant**. There may be social **upheaval** around them but their **concerns** are purely practical. They want to stay together. In late 1950s Virginia, where anti-miscegenation **rules** are in force, that is a considerable **challenge** in itself. When the authorities are tipped off about the marriage (we never learn by whom), both Richard and Mildred are **wrenched** from their bed and **imprisoned**. They are given a suspended sentence, conditional on their leaving the state for 25 years. They **comply**, but a life in inner-city Washington DC is not what Mildred had in mind for her three children. Her letter to Bobby Kennedy asking for help **catapults** the couple into the public eye as their marriage, so private and cherished, becomes public **property** as part of a landmark Supreme Court case.



Produced by Colin Firth, the film at times has a British sense of understatement to it. Richard and Mildred don't ever make heart-wrenching declarations of their love for one another but it is **apparent** all the same. The irony is that this couple, with no particular interest in politics but with a sense of common **decency** and an utter **determination** to stay together, helped change American law. Loving is an intimate **domestic** drama in

which the **protagonists** themselves hardly seem to notice their own historical roles.