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45 Years – Review

Cinematic **depictions** of long-term relationships are **exceedingly** rare. There's a reason for that, of course; the **familiarity** and routine of a couple who know each other inside out is an inherently less dramatic situation than the opening stages of a romance, wherein **doubt**, **wonder** and excitement all register in a **dizzying** whirl of emotion.

Yet, there are such films out there - Ira Sachs' *Love Is Strange* is a good recent example - and *45 Years* is another **gem** to add to the small, but growing **pile**.

Adapted from a short story by David Constantine, a British poet, author and translator, Andrew Haigh's third feature film as director is a **mature**, restrained picture, carried by two exceptional performances by Charlotte Rampling and Tom Courtenay as

married couple Kate and Geoff Mercer. Into their

comfortable, companionable lives as they near their 45th wedding anniversary comes news from the past concerning a tragedy, the **ramifications** of which, it is revealed, were never fully **divulged** by Geoff to Kate.



Haigh, who has worked on numerous films and as a writer/director on HBO's *Looking*, follows features *Greek Pete* and the **acclaimed** *Weekend* with a beautifully directed, **moving** piece of



work; one which should seriously **reward** fans of accomplished, adult **storytelling**. It would be a great **shame** were Rampling's recent, incredibly ill-advised comments regards diversity at this year's forthcoming Academy Awards to **overshadow** its quality (and indeed, how good Rampling herself is in the film, though they will surely affect its chances of success), but *45 Years* is enough of an **achievement** to surely **outlive** any controversy.



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