

## Big Eyes – Review

*Big Eyes* is something of a change of **pace** for director Tim Burton, who in recent years has chosen to **focus** on the more overtly fantastical, like his enormously **successful** 2010 adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland* or 2012's Johnny Depp-starring vampire film *Dark Shadows*. Featuring a **wonderful** performance by Amy Adams as American artist Margaret Keane - and a larger-than-life Christoph Waltz as her **scheming** husband Walter - Burton's latest is a biographical period piece focusing on sexism, art and identity in the USA of the 1950s and 60s. Nevertheless, it is recognisably a Tim Burton film, and fans of the director's 1994 biography *Ed Wood* will be pleased to know that Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski are back on board to **provide** the script.



The film opens as Margaret decides to leave her husband and **start** a new life in San Francisco (lovingly captured on film by cinematographer Bruno Delbonnel) with her daughter Jane (Delaney Raye). There she **meets** Walter, a **charming businessman**, and the two marry; Margaret is, for sure, **smitten**, and the marriage also ensures that she doesn't lose **custody** of Jane to her ex-husband.

What follows is the **meat** of the story: Margaret's **artwork** - undeniably strange portraits of children with **massive** eyes - is appreciated by her new husband, who initially helps her sell it, but soon states that people don't buy "lady art," and **poses** as the artist himself. Walter's character shifts from charismatic to **smarmy** and oppressive, and the struggle the characters face forms the basis for the film.

It's a more personal, **reflective** story than many of Burton's recent offerings, and has more in common with the likes of his **lovely** *Big Fish* (2003). Rounded out by a **terrific** supporting cast including Krysten Ritter, Jason Schwartzman and Terence Stamp, it comes highly recommended for fans of the director, those interested in the commercialisation of art, and of cinema in general.