

## A Quiet Passion – Review

Since Terence Davies' well-received documentary *Of Time and the City* was released in 2008, the acclaimed filmmaker has directed *The Deep Blue Sea* (2008) and *Sunset Song* (2011), though this, a passion project based on the life of American poet Emily Dickinson, might be his most ambitious yet.

In a curious way, though, that ambition is constricted by the fact that Dickinson led a famously reclusive life, meaning that the majority of the film takes place in the study, bedroom and living room of the Dickinson house in Amherst, Massachusetts. Working again with cinematographer Florian Hoffmeister, however, Davies imbues the scenes with a stark, odd sense of beauty, and what seem like relatively routine encounters are often charged with melancholy and meaning.

A lot of praise must go to Cynthia Dixon in the starring role; probably best known for *Sex and the City* (in which she played the uptight Miranda Hobbes), she is superb here. Davies' script, too, is brilliant: sometimes funny, often sad, but always engaging, weaving Dickinson's poetry into the mix with a sure, steady hand. Much like Terence Malick - or even someone like Leonard Cohen - the talented Davies is experiencing a real resurgence in his later years, and this handsome film is testament to the fact.

