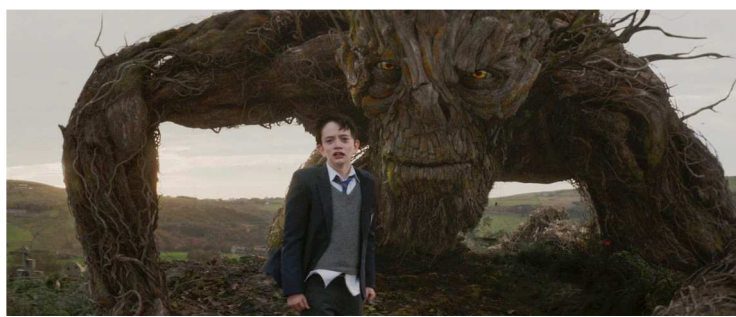


A monster calls – Review

Directed by Catalan Juan Antonio Bayona, who after "The Impossible" and "The Orphanage", doesn't disappoint in his **latest** film, "A Monster Calls".

12-year-old Conor (played by a Lewis MacDougall) is **dealing** with both his mother's cancer battle and **bullies** at school but finds an **ally** in a monster who appears at his bedroom window at the same time every night. The monster (**gravelly** voiced by Liam Neeson), is an **ancient**, tree spirit who with his visit promises to tell Conor three stories. These stories, told through beautiful **animation**, is in return of Conor's own, fourth story - the **truth** he is trying to ignore.



Several lessons are told through the **screenplay** and the film doesn't shy away from adult issues and **stark** realities of **bereavement**. It is **painfully** honest and teaches us that stories can help us in difficult times and the **struggle** of daily life. MacDougall steals the show taking on a **complicated role** with a confidence far **beyond** his years.



The film stretches into both the **realms** of imagination and dreams and the reality of life and loss. It is visually stunning and combines raw emotion with dark fantasy. Ancient, wild, and **relentless**, the monster takes Conor on a journey of **courage**, faith, and truth.