

Lilting – Review

Love is lost in translation in this beautifully simple, British film. Moving and **understated**, yet very funny in places, this is an **intimate** drama about two strangers unable to communicate but drawn together by a common language of **grief**.

Richard (Ben Whishaw) plays a **vulnerable** young man who after losing his love (Kai) makes connection with his Cambodian-Chinese mother (Junn) who lives in a **retirement** home. In a **haze** of grief and with the help of a translator, his desire to keep Kai alive through Junn also helps him achieve a personal sense of **closure**.



We soon learn that Junn had difficulty accepting her son's relationship with Richard and against all the odds they are brought together despite language and emotional **barriers** standing between them. The **initially frosty** Junn gradually joins Richard in delicately piecing together memories of a man they both loved.

We don't learn very much about the central characters beyond how they relate to each other and even the cause of Kai's **untimely** death that sets the drama in motion remains **unknown** until minutes before the end of the film.



However, this low-**budget** British piece perfectly reflects on family, communication, grief and **misunderstanding**. The **gentle** study of **loss** builds emotional power, moving between **uncomfortable** reality and sorrowful memories that **bridge** life and **death**. Excellently acted, directed and edited, this film will not leave you **untouched**.