

## Churchill – Review

**Entertaining** and interesting, Brian Cox stars as British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in a film about one of the biggest and most important events in modern history.

Tensions **mount** for Churchill in the days leading up to **infamous** Allied D-Day landings in Normandy, France in June, 1944. The accepted view of this Prime Minister is of a **war** hero, integral in planning the D-Day landings that ultimately **swung** the conflict in the Allies' favour. Jonathan Teplitzky's film does not subscribe to that opinion. Instead, Churchill is presented past his prime, **battling** demons and depression.



The film covers the few days before the **landings**.

Churchill is a man alone, **appealing** to everyone he can think of - from General Eisenhower (John Slattery) to George VI (James Purefoy) - to stop, as he sees it, the inevitable **carnage** that will follow. He's **haunted** by the past - the landings at Gallipoli during World War I that led to the deaths of 44,000 Allied soldiers. He believes Operation Overlord will be a **repeat** of that tragedy, one he feels responsible for.

Where *Churchill* **excels** is with Brian Cox's performance. Rarely off **screen**, his Churchill is a real person, never the **caricature** that so many bad impressions and car **insurance adverts** would make it easy to **slip** into. And, in Miranda Richardson, who plays his wife Clementine, he has the perfect **counterpoint**. Richardson's Clementine is level-headed and good-humoured, but biting when she needs to be - the only one who Winston can be **cowed** by.



A fascinating but **flawed** portrait of a fascinating but flawed man. Churchill deserves a pat on the back for its production and an almighty applause for its performances. All in all, it is a great watch.