

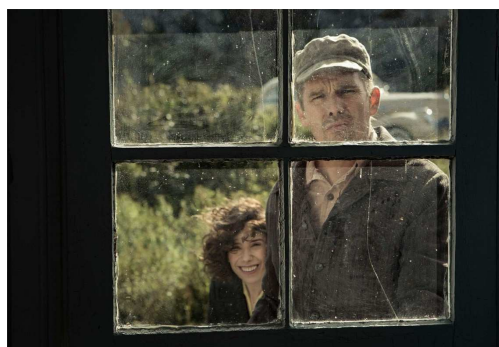
## Maudie – Review

Directed by Aisling Walsh, with a script by Sherry White, Maudie is based - or perhaps, more truly, **inspired** - by the life of Maud Lewis (1903-1970). A self-taught artist who lived in extreme poverty much of her adult life, Lewis (Sally Hawkins) struggled with what appears to have been **juvenile** rheumatoid arthritis, painting **bold**, colorful scenes of red trees and black cats with brushes tucked in a tiny, **gnarled** hand.

Due to **entrenched** beliefs and **prejudices** of the era in which she lived, Maud's physical **disabilities** saw her written off as a *simpleton* by her tight-knit rural community. However, this unremittingly cruel treatment - particularly from her own family - was but one of several **imposing** roadblocks put in front of Lewis on a very challenging path through life. The loss of a child in misleadingly **murky** circumstances while in her **twenties** casts the largest and most telling shadow over Maud's **arduous** and poignantly **solitary** journey.



Running a close second in the tough-times **stakes** is her later marriage to Everett (Ethan Hawke), a moody and **gruff** frontiersman who originally hired Maud to be his live-in maid.



While Everett comes to appreciate and understand Maud as her rare and **striking** talent emerges, it is not before he sends **plenty** of physical and emotional **abuse** her way.

Hawkins particularly **shines** in this inspiring portrait of the resilience of a crippled but immensely **creative** woman. Walsh's touching biographical adaptation of a true life story will surely **tug** at your heartstrings and make you Google its subject afterwards.